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Electoral Upset in Massachusetts

ELLIE MONTGOMERY, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In a special election on January 19, 2010, Massachusetts elected Scott Brown, its first Republican senator since 1972. This election, which proved to be a startling setback for Democrats in the state and the nation, was held to fill the seat of the late Senator Ted Kennedy for the remainder of his term. As a member of the most powerful political family in Massachusetts, Kennedy occupied the seat since shortly after his brother ran for President. The most combative Senate race in over a decade, the victory of Scott Brown over Martha Coakley marked a groundbreaking shift in Massachusetts. In the last few weeks before the election, Coakley's double-digit lead evaporated and was replaced with a statistical tie as Brown's candidacy caught fire among conservatives and independents. Money poured in from both sides, and the Massachusetts race was viewed nationally as a referendum on the Obama administration and Democratic leadership in Washington D.C. After the polls closed, Scott Brown won the election 52 percent to 47 percent and was sworn in last Thursday as Massachusetts' Junior Senator.

Scott Brown is a graduate of Wakefield High School, Tufts University and Boston College Law School. He served three years as a Wrentham Town Assessor,

three years as a Wrentham Selectman, and three terms in the Massachusetts State Senate. He is a practicing attorney and a Lieutenant Colonel in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the Massachusetts National Guard. Brown styles himself as a Republican willing to work across party lines and has cast himself as a candidate with a strong identification with the common man. His positions include a limited pro-choice ideology, support for the war in Afghanistan and

the controversial interrogation technique known as waterboarding, and opposition to the Democratic health care reform plan and financial regulation. Additionally, according to his website, he advocates low taxes and alternative energy sources like wind, solar, nuclear and geothermal. He believes in taking a strong stance against illegal immigration and strengthening border controls and penalties for companies who hire illegal immigrants.

Though one Senate seat would normally change the balance of power only slightly in Washington, this special election has had momentous consequences. A technique known as the 'filibuster', which permits a Senator to stall or prevent the vote on legislation and extend debate by



SCOTT BROWN ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

speaking indefinitely, can only be defeated by a motion to close debate. This motion requires 60 votes, a margin the Democrats had until Brown took office. Now that Brown has joined the Senate as the 41st Republican, the Democrats are no longer able to push through legislation over united Republican opposition. Because of this, many Democrats see Brown's win in the election as a serious setback that jeopardizes the Obama administration's top priorities. Brown emphasized his opposition to the Democrats' healthcare reform bill during his campaign, and plans to vote against it in the Senate.

ELECTORAL UPSET IN MASS.
Continued on page 3

2012 Prom Rumors Unfounded

**B. KIM, III
& CARLOS ROJAS, III**
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR & STAFF WRITER

Rumors are known to spread like wildfire, especially at Boston Latin School, where what starts out as mere speculation often becomes accepted truth. The most recent wave of rumors sweeping through the hallways has planted seeds of doubt into the minds of the BLS community. What is going on with Junior Prom for the Class of 2012? Is it happening or has it been called off? While some are unfazed by the rumors, others are certain that a junior prom is not in the future for this year's sophomores.

"I heard that it's nonexistent," says Elizabeth Jiang (III), but she questions the origin and authenticity of this gossip. Many students have questioned what the class has done to deserve the rumored cancellation. Paulina Phu (III), who has been bombarded with these rumors, has come to believe that the primary reason for the alleged cancellation of her Junior Prom is her class' reputation. "It is totally not fair that we must suffer because of a few people's actions."

The Class of 2012 has gained an unfav-

orable reputation over the years, mainly due to incidents of improper activity. The mention of this class often evokes remarks of disapproval and sends members of other classes on endless rants. The question is whether this animosity is justifiable. Have the rumors been blown out of proportion or is the Class of 2012 truly undeserving of a junior prom, one of the biggest highlights of their high school years?

Last year, students in this class were caught sleeping and disrupting the honored BLS tradition of Public Declamation. The students were appropriately reprimanded. Several days later, Headmaster Lynne Mooney-Teta called an emergency assembly for the students. Disappointment underlined the tone of her speech, with the administration holding the view that the Class of 2012 had let the school down.

Later that year, many seized upon supernatural rumors that the school was infiltrated by a band of vampires and a werewolf in the class of 2012. According to members of the Class of 2009, they would engage in daily rituals during lunch, drinking each other's blood and howling up at the moon. These rumors, which were far from the truth, generated significant

derision toward Boston Latin School. In a matter of days, the news that the oldest and most prestigious school in America supposedly harbored vampires reached national and international news sources. Media outlets from The Boston Globe to MTV reported on alleged hysteria at BLS.

Just as past rumors about 2012, such as the vampire scandal, have been vastly exaggerated, the junior prom rumors have proved to once again be nothing but hot air. When asked if the faculty had made any sort of decision regarding Junior Prom for Class III, Assistant Headmaster Malcolm Flynn stated, "There are people in your class, as well as any class, who have certainly made mistakes from time to time, but I don't know of any decision that has been made about Junior Prom." There you have it. Although many students from the Class of 2012 believe Junior Prom has been cancelled, the administration has yet to let out such information. Mr. Flynn said, "I know one thing, if you don't have a Junior Prom, you certainly won't have a Senior Prom." He jokingly added, "But I will suggest to Headmaster Mooney Teta to cancel the prom... obviously this class is convinced it is guilty of something."

Global News Tidbits

>> Sledding is not rocket science, but for a 62-year-old man from Michigan, known to do "outrageous things," there is no difference between the two. This man was hosting a Sunday night sledding party when he decided to add a burst of power to the sport by strapping a homemade rocket, filled with gasoline and gunpowder, to his back, in order to experience "a rocket-launch effect." What the man

ended up experiencing, however, was an explosion that caused second-degree burns to his body, landing him in the hospital. (AP)

>> Xiaoqing, a 21-year-old woman from China, left her boyfriend of 18 months when she could no longer handle his obsession with famous Hollywood actress Jessica Alba. However, she is unable to get over him and plans to win him back by undergoing extensive plastic surgery in order to resemble his favorite actress. The

Shanghai Time Plastic Surgery Hospital has agreed to "fulfill her wish," saying that they will do it for free so that they can display their surgery skills. Xiaoqing's decision is based on the suggestions of her friends, but will not be made final until she speaks to her mother. (Reuters)

>> A minibus taxi driver who was pulled over at a routine checkpoint in the KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa is "now behind bars," says Colin Governder, a member of the Road Traffic

Inspectorate. The man was said to have been drunk, driving with a blood alcohol level that was five times over the limit. What traffic officials found to be even more surprising was the fact that there were 49 children, between the ages of three and thirteen, in the 16-seat vehicle. The children, who had been on their way to school, were said to have been sitting on top of each other in uncomfortable positions. The driver has been charged for drunk driving and overloading. (Reuters)

News

Editor's Note

Happy Valentine's Day! Yeah, yeah, we know it's not until five more days, but when just one production week ago the Argo Staff fought off a ruthless incursion of Copy section zombies, the least we can do is celebrate each and every day.

This is one of our biggest issues of the year (yes, I know we say that a lot, but it is) and our biggest until the Graduation Issue. Why is it so important? Well, it's because of the very first sentence I've written: Valentine's Day! The Argo has a long-standing tradition of selling carnations, \$1 each or 6 for \$5, with funky pick-up lines only Helen Zhao (II), our lovely business manager, could make up. So is this editor's note being used as ad space

for our own newspaper? Well, yes. BUT I hope that you'll forget that last sentence if I mention something as egregious as the lack of toilet paper in the bathrooms of Boston Latin School (see p. 10)!

I think the only adverse effect of our Final Friday this issue (February 5, 2010) is that it happens to coincide with a girls' basketball game, a DCL swim meet, and most importantly, the Hope for Haiti event. I mean, did you see the shirt design? That was really enough to convince me to go. And as I sit here in the art wing, shirt-less and missing the festivities, I'm pretty bummed.

The only consolation, I suppose, is the wonder of our wonderful newspaper

of wonder: we have some great stories for you this month: Conan O'Brien gets canceled; Scott Brown gets elected; Sports jocks argue; BLSTV gets ignored. There's just too much news to include in our beloved newspaper, but we have tried, haven't we?

This Valentine's Day, Will and I will have been through our fourth issue, and we finally know what we need to do to succeed. Here's to hoping we'll finish by Final Friday? Two hours left before Mr. Flynn kicks us out... Here goes.

--Andy Vo,
Assistant Editor-in-Chief/Zombie Killah

Obama's First State of the Union

LUCY BURKE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On January 27, 2010, President Obama addressed the United States Congress in his first State of the Union.

The President's speech began with rhetoric reminiscent of his presidential campaign, saying that Americans had succeeded in the past because of their ability "to move forward as one nation, as one people." The theme of coming together, whether Republicans and Democrats or Main Street and Wall Street, was one of the key points of the speech.

The tone of the speech changed, however, once President Obama began discussing the "devastation" the country had faced when he took office: two wars, "the worst recession since the Great Depression," huge government debts and a ruined financial system. The President attempted to dispel the perception that he that he has stumbled since being elected, shown by the recent victory of Republican Scott Brown in the Massachusetts Senate election. He laid the blame for America's current situation on the mistakes of previous administrations and Wall Street. Obama tried to show that he is siding with the people, especially small business owners, not Congress, banks or lobbyists.

But Obama spoke of his intention to make decisions not for their popularity, but for their necessity. He asserted that the bank bailout fell into this category, and stressed the fact that "everyone hated the bailout," stating that it was "as popular as a root canal." He highlighted the tax cuts, new unemployment benefits, and jobs that were saved and created by the Recovery Act. He emphasized the need to create a stronger economic foundation so that the current economic crisis will not be repeated. He allocated \$30 billion

to small banks for loans and tax breaks for companies that hire new workers or buy new equipment, especially if it is environmentally friendly. The President did not dwell on environmental issues for long, but his points were clear; people need incentives to go green.

Later in the address, President Obama announced the decision to freeze all discretionary, non-defense government spending, including \$447 billion in spending from education to veterans services, for three years beginning in 2011. This, however, excludes Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, the military, and Homeland Security, which are the most expensive programs in the federal budget. Congress has also recently set aside an additional \$136.8 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

30 minutes into the speech, President Obama shifted focus from the economy to healthcare reform, the top priority of his first year in office. He was willing to take the blame for the public's confusion about the healthcare bill, saying that he should have explained its contents more clearly. He sharply criticized the Republican opposition for what he characterized as "obstructing every single bill, just because they can." He chided them for "just saying no," and reminded Republican leaders, with their recent win in Massachusetts and the elimination of the Democratic supermajority, the



PENSIVE OBAMA, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

responsibility to govern now lies with both parties. He accused Republicans of sowing distrust among the American people through untruthful statements on the healthcare bill. His criticism was not only for Republicans, however, the President also reminded congressional Democrats that they still have the largest majority in decades. They may have lost the supermajority, but all of their power does not lie in the 60th vote. Obama also asked Democrats to come together and not to "run for the hills."

In a comment that stirred emotions, Obama reprimanded the Supreme Court "with all due deference to separation of powers" for reversing a ruling on campaign finance. With the ruling reversed, the limitations on corporate donations to campaigns are virtually gone, which Obama believes "will open the floodgates for special interests." The speech lasted for slightly over an hour, and Obama ended with one of the rhetorical flourishes for which he is known: "We don't quit. I don't quit. Let's seize this moment to start anew, to carry the dream forward and to strengthen our union once more."



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Petere Veritatem

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Scholastic Press
Association
Competition

1996 New England
Scholastic Press
Association
Superior
Achievement Award

1996 Third Place
Suffolk University
High School
Journalism
Competition

New 2007 Honorable Mention
Greater Boston High School
Newspaper Competition
Excellence in News Writing

1997 New England
Scholastic Press
Association
Superior Achievement
Award

1998 New England
Scholastic Press
Association
Superior
Achievement Award

2004 New England
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Highest Achievement
Award

2007 First Place
Greater Boston High School
Newspaper Competition
Excellence in Sports Writing

Boston Latin School *Argo*
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The BLS Custodial Staff

Education Reform Bill Cheaters Don't Prosper

By **AMELIA BURKE, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On January 18, Governor Deval Patrick signed an expansive education reform bill allowing Massachusetts to apply for federal education funds that could exceed \$250 million. The bill will increase the amount the lowest-scoring tenth of school districts can spend on charter school funding. Patrick hopes that it will help narrow the achievement gap, the consistently poor performance of low-income and minority students on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) and other state assessments. The bill also authorizes of-



GOVERNOR PATRICK APPROVES THIS BILL

ficials to dismiss unqualified teachers and administrators, giving the Massachusetts Education Commissioner the power to alter teacher union contracts in under-achieving schools.

The bill had significant opposition, passing through the legislature on January 14 with a 23-12 vote in the Senate and a 97-47 division in the House—an unusually large percentage of naysayers for an edu-

cation bill. Controversy developed mainly over the objections from teachers' union supporters who complained that the bill restricted the collective bargaining rights of Massachusetts teachers.

There was also frustration over the unusually short deliberation period, resulting from the push for the Race to the Top federal funds. Race to the Top is a program instated by the Obama administration to give states the incentive to pass education reform like expanding charter school availability. The states that win the "race" will receive grants from the federal government. Some senators felt that the deadline for Race to the Top led to insufficient time for thorough consideration of the bill, and they expressed concerns about the state's heavy dependence on test scores, especially MCAS, as the major criterion for determining which schools were underperforming.

This bill is the first Massachusetts education law passed since the Education Reform Act of 1993 and represents a significant increase in support for charter schools. The bill allows the establishment of certain in-district charter schools that would have more independence and flexibility in their curricula and management than the more traditional state-wide charter schools. The bill will also revise the state process for charter school evaluations and require more extensive planning in the creation of additional schools.

By **OLIVIA GRANT, I**
STAFF WRITER

After being accused of cheating on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) last fall, the Robert M. Hughes Academy Charter School in Springfield, Massachusetts has been under investigation by the Massachusetts Board of Education. Ever since the charter school opened its doors in 1999, it has gone through its share of problems which include poor management, the hiring of a convicted felon and the threat of closing in 2008 due to low MCAS scores. These factors pressured the principal and teachers to increase test scores for the sake of keeping the school open. However, the administrators' determination to use cheating to save the school has resulted in its permanent shutdown.

Mitchell Chester, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner, has decided to revoke the school's charter this January due to confirmed reports of widespread cheating. The "solid evidence" that was presented to the Board consisted of reports from eight out of sixteen teachers who were either aware of, or participating in, cheating on students' MCAS scores. There was even an incident when a group of children were called away to "fix their MCAS" while watching a movie.

The school's revocation will not go into effect until June 30, 2010 in order to allow parents time to find suitable alternatives for their children at another institution. According to reports from the Department of Education, Chester declares that, "This decision was in the best interest of the students involved." He justifies his

decision by stating, "Between the history of governance and academic performance concerns, and now, wide spread cheating, I believe that the Board of Trustees and the school management have systematically failed the students of this school." The Chair of the Board, Maura Banta, supports Chester's decision, saying, "The school's lingering governance problems, overall low performance and the recent discovery of widespread cheating at the school forced the Board's hand in this matter." The choice has been made and, although the school was given fifteen days to file for an appeal, opposition to the Board's choice is low.

The management of the school has been criticized throughout the MCAS investigations and even earlier in the school's short history. The Hughes Academy Charter School has continually replaced its principals, violated building code regulations and has hired a controversial administrator: Fred Allen Swan, a convicted felon. Based on reports from The Boston Globe, Swan defends his school and his desire to keep it open, saying, "There are many of these young people who have been together since kindergarten. This is their family. This is their school. They love this school, the parents love this school."

On the other hand, Maria Garcia Snow, a mother of one of the students, begs to differ. According to Camille Nelson-Campbell, another parent, Snow had written a letter to administrators against Swan's role at the school. She also stated that she was "not putting you (Swan) down. We all make mistakes. But we have to think about the children first." As of this June, those children will be required to enroll in a different school when the Hughes Academy Charter closes its doors.

Nation Awaits Ruling in Prop 8 Trial

By **EDSUVANI MAISONET, II**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

California's state constitution declares, "only marriage between a man and woman is valid or recognized in California."

On November 4, 2008, California voters passed Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment eliminating same-sex marriage in the state. Under California state law, any voter is able to put an issue on the ballot, provided the voter (and their associates) write a proposal, have it approved and then, in a strict 150 day window, collect 694,354 signatures. If the ballot measure is passed, the proposition will be inserted into California state law. On the day America's first African-American president was elected, "Proposition 8- Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry" passed by a 52% margin.

In 2000, California passed Proposition 22, changing state law to define marriage as a relationship strictly between a man and a woman. The law was appealed to the California Supreme Court which ruled that it violated broad rights granted by the California state constitution and thus, repealed the law. That set the stage for Proposition 8, proposed by opponents of same-sex marriage to overrule the Supreme Court decision. Recently, however, the tug-of-war has continued as gay rights advocates sued to overturn Proposition 8.

In a trial that began on January 11,

2010, the constitutionality of Proposition 8 was brought before a United States District Court, where gay marriage is being contested at the federal level for the first time. Under Judge Vaughn Walker, the fate of the case will be decided in the coming months by a non-jury trial.

After the voters approved Proposition 8, the American Foundation for Equal Rights (AFER) was founded. AFER is prosecuting on behalf of two same-sex couples, Kristia Perry and Sandra Stier, and Paul Katami and Jerry Brown, in the case *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*. They are being represented by two famous lawyers, Theodore Olsen and David Boies.

Before the trial, Judge Walker ruled that the proceedings would be filmed and also streamed through a live feed on Youtube. The supporters of Proposition 8 argued that the footage should not be broadcasted live because witnesses might be less forthcoming with information. The California Supreme Court ruled that instead of a live feed, footage would be shown on a delayed schedule. Blogs and social networking sites took the place of a live video feed by providing up-to-date reports of what happened in the courtroom. Websites and Twitter

accounts were set up specifically for live updates of testimony and are detailing each day of the trial.

The case presented by the two same-sex couples claims that the voter-approved ban, Proposition 8, infringes upon the rights guaranteed by the US Constitution. They must prove that the proposition was discriminatory in nature and violates the constitutional guarantee of equal protection because it discriminates based on sexual orientation and gender. They must also prove that legalization of same-sex marriage in no way impacts opposite-sex marriages.

The plaintiffs' witnesses testified to the nature of homosexuality and discrimination, the history and evolution

of marriage, the psychological effects of being labeled second-class citizens and the economic aspect of same-sex marriage. The defense had two witnesses who testified that they were protecting "traditional marriage," and that same-sex marriage is in some ways harmful to society. On January 27, 2010, cross-examination concluded when the plaintiffs rested their case.

After more than two weeks of testimonies on the many facets of this contentious issue, Judge Walker declared that he will review the evidence before the lawyers make their closing statements. Followers of the trial should not expect an immediate ruling because Walker may take until March to conclude the trial.

Regardless of Walker's ruling, the decision is expected to be appealed, possibly taking it to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Two Los Angeles filmmakers, John Ireland and John Ainsworth, plan to create a movie that depicts the trial using court transcripts. The movie will be done in segments and will be several chapters long, focusing on the true events of the trial. It will be broadcasted on Youtube.



THESE PLAINTIFFS ARE SUING CALIFORNIA FOR THE RIGHT TO MARRY

ELECTORAL UPSET IN MASS.
Continued from page 1

Senator Brown achieved surprising success in his come-from-behind victory in a historically Democratic

state. However, this election was held to fill a vacancy, and Scott Brown has only two years to vindicate the trust placed in him before returning to the campaign trail for reelection in 2012.

Early Democratic contenders are speculated to be Representative Mike Capuano, the runner-up in the Democratic primary won by Martha Coakley, and Martin T. Meehan, a prominent former Representative with

a hefty campaign account. Although the turnout of voters on January 19 was high, more voters are expected to show up to the polls in 2012, since it is a major election for both Congress and President.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Warmest Decade on Record

By MELINDA WANG, III
STAFF WRITER

Research nowadays seems to yield better arguments for the affirmative side of the global warming debate. According to the meteorological reports from NASA, conducted by the Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), the past decade was the warmest ever recorded on Earth, with 2005 being the warmest year and 2009 immediately following with only a slight difference in temperature. Indeed, 2005 was the warmest year ever recorded by modern measuring instruments. 2009 came in second, followed by the years 1998, 2002, 2003, 2006 and 2007. In contrast, 2008 was the coolest year on average due to La Niña, a cool ocean current. During this time, water in the Eastern Pacific along the equator experienced a drop of about

0.5 degrees C. Overall, we have seen an upsurge of 0.8 degrees C (1.4 degrees F) in global surface temperatures since 1880. According to James Hansen, the director of GISS, this number is a valid tool that can be used to analyze global temperature trends, since these numbers show an increase in temperature over a long period of time instead of representing fluctuations between proximate years. For instance, many skeptics mistakenly assert that because 2008 experienced a drastic fall in temperature, global warming is unfounded. However, small fluctuations occur quite regularly, through such agents as the aforementioned La Niña, and its brother current, El Niño. Thus, changes in temperature within a small amount of time do not embody an overall trend, and in fact, global warming

accounts for such fluctuations. Scientists speculate that this trend of increasing temperature was mostly caused by the release of greenhouse gases, but other factors are to blame as well. For example, similar to La Niña and El Niño, the sea surface temperature in the tropics can also affect continental temperatures near the sea. Aerosol levels in the atmosphere, such as smoke, pollution, and smog can disrupt the environment. In addition, stages of high and low activity in the sun, referred to as solar maximums and solar minimums, can cause minor changes. These elements, however, whose effects are hardly detectable, merely account for the seasonal fluctuations and are not considered major contributors to global warming. On the other hand, data suggests that global warming has been significantly slowed due to the reduction in the amount

of water vapor in the stratosphere. The 10 percent decline of vapor levels accounted for a 25 percent decrease in the predicted increase of average temperatures from 2000-2009. Though temperatures were predicted to have risen by 1.4 degrees Celsius, scientists noted a rise of only one degree. Although the cause behind this is still unknown, scientists speculate that changes in ocean surface temperatures may have altered the process of evaporation. Nevertheless, this piece of evidence shows that although global warming is still mild, there is no guarantee of what may happen in the future once water vapor in the stratosphere returns to its normal levels. Despite how the public may react to NASA's striking discoveries, global warming will not cease without immediate action from people and governments across the world.

Google Hacked, China to Blame?

KERRY HU, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Complex firewalls and antivirus programs protect America's vast computer networks and infrastructure. This internet security is effective at blocking unwanted traffic from those with malicious intents. The recent large-scale cyber attack on the world's most visited website, however, serves as proof that the Internet is not as safe and secure as many believe it to be. Less than a month ago, Google announced that it was the victim of a software hack. The website has also stated that the attempt to infiltrate its defenses was "highly sophisticated and highly targeted." The perpetrators stole intellectual property, set their sights on the Gmail accounts of Chinese human rights activists and targeted at least two dozen other United States technology companies.

In its blog, Google posted that the attack was directed against "major corporations in sectors as diverse as finance, technology, media, and chemical. The route the attackers used was malicious software used to infect personal computers. Any computer connected to the Internet can fall victim to such attacks." Reports on a backdoor entry also surfaced. This is a method of bypassing normal authentication and security measures while remaining undetected. McAfee, a leading firm specializing in antivirus and computer security programs, has reported that a flaw in the Windows Internet Explorer was used to gain access to Google's databases. However, based on the other trespasses, the exposure was not just limited to Internet Explorer. Abusing a feature called an ActiveX control in a Word, Excel or Powerpoint file could exploit the same bug. This is known as a "zero-day vulnerability," which refers to a software loophole for

which there is no remedy. It was confirmed that the program behind the attacks was the Hydraq Trojan. This exploit allows the hacker to remotely obtain information stored on the computer, gaining passwords and credentials for entry into networks such as Google's. However, this software must be downloaded online, leading to speculation of how the virus was originally implanted. There have been theories of "phishing," the process which includes deliberately sending the employees of companies false emails (supposedly from a friend or family member) with infected files or links to infected sites. When an unsuspecting worker accesses the file or link, the Hydraq Trojan would then be downloaded automatically to that person's computer. A SecureWorks Inc. researcher discovered that the trojan contained a unique algorithm, which "only seems to be found on Chinese Web sites." Others also ana-

lyzed the malware and traced its origin back to China. They found that its source code, called Aurora, first appeared in 2006. Since it was not widely used, it evaded antivirus programs for years. Although the Chinese government has denied its role in the attacks, the head of the International Cyberintelligence Committee at iDefense stated, "The IP addresses used to launch the attacks are known to be associated with previous attacks from groups...directly employed agents of the Chinese..." Regardless of the source, the series of coordinated attacks emphasize the dangers of the Web. Although the hacks were directed at corporations, consumer computers can be breached just as easily—possibly even more easily. Always keep antivirus programs up-to-date, install the latest security patches and avoid suspicious emails. Otherwise, you may find your own computer in a similar situation.

Consumer Electronics Show 2010



By NHU LE, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This past January, beneath the roof of the Las Vegas Convention Center, the most cutting edge technology dazzled thousands as they made their way across the show floor. The Consumer Electronics Show was underway. Also known as CES, it is an annual private trade show run by the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA). It is only open to those associated with the field of consumer electronics. Nonetheless, it attracts more than a hundred thousand people to Las Vegas each year, all of them keen on witnessing the latest in technology. Though many exhibitors dropped out of CES this year, more than 2,000 representatives were still in attendance. In the different sections of CES designated for different product categories,

companies made announcements and provided demos for their new products. Correspondents from technology sites kept the interested public in the loop via real-time updates not just through their websites, but through social networks like Twitter and Facebook, a practice becoming more and more popular. Products ranged from the quirky (the "ButtKicker") to the useful (WiFi enabled SD cards), and exhibitors ranged from name-brand companies to smaller start-ups. The exhibitors' booths were equally varied. This year, one of the most jaw-dropping spectacles was Samsung's display. The company constructed a wall of flat screen TVs that together made an image collage, presumably to bring attention to one of the largest booths at CES. Their booth featured nearly every type of product Samsung produces. In contrast to Samsung's absurd en-

ergy consumption, the prevalence of green technology remained a trend this year. CEA expanded the Sustainable Planet CE Spotlight exhibit by 40 percent this year to accommodate all green technology companies. It highlighted sustainable technologies from automobile, phone, and packaging industries, among others. Another huge trend was 3-D technology. Though *Avatar* may have brought public attention to advanced 3-D technology for the first time, developers have long been aware of the idea. In fact, they have taken it a step further, bringing it from the theater to the home. Many companies showcased 3-D-capable TVs, an idea which is not new but is made viable this time around by both improved technology and a reasonable price range. In fact, the Panasonic VT25 series, Panasonic's first plasma 3-D television, was given the "CES Best in Show" award by CNET this

year. It is expected to ship to retailers this summer. This news may be met with grief from floundering movie theaters, which for many years have been losing customers to sophisticated home-theater systems. 3-D technology had been hailed as the way to re-attract crowds, but ultimately, that may just be a pipe dream. The death of movie theaters, however, may be prolonged for quite a while. A large detracting point of 3-D TVs is that the viewer needs to wear (and buy) 3-D glasses. CES 2010 offered a rare glimpse at the future of technology. Despite lower attendance and exhibitor numbers, due in part to the recession, it nonetheless shows the technology field as neither lacking in variety nor innovation. Those who followed the 2010 CES coverage are now left waiting with bated breath for these products to be unfurled to the general public in the years ahead.

A Wake-Up Call for Democrats

By SANCHAY JAIN, I
SPORTS EDITOR

On January 19, 2010, Republican Scott Brown defeated Democrat Martha Coakley in a special election to fill the U.S. Senate seat vacated by the recently deceased Senator Edward Kennedy. Brown's victory was certainly an upset, considering the fact that Coakley had the support of the Kennedy family, President Barack Obama and the Massachusetts Democratic Party. As the Attorney General, she also enjoyed more public recognition than Brown in the months leading up to the election. And besides, it's been over 30 years since Massachusetts last had a Republican senator.

Coakley lost because she and the Democratic Party became complacent. Like the rest of the nation, they assumed that Massachusetts, a bastion for liberal intellectuals, would automatically vote blue. Due to her humongous lead early in the polls, Coakley seemed to have figured that Brown had nothing to offer the state that would justify an unexpected Republican comeback.

But Brown's rigorous campaign proved that it was Coakley who had nothing to offer the state. His aggressive grassroots campaign and positive approach contrasted starkly with Coakley's disheveled laid-back approach. After taking a one month siesta preparing her victory speech and looking into private schools in the D.C. area, she demonstrated an inability to debate (an important skill for a Senator looking to work a bill past 99 colleagues), a propensity for blundering, and a series of negative, stale advertise-

ments that made her look vicious and condescending.

While many people grumbled about Coakley's defeat in the election because of its impact on the national political scene (her defeat all but eliminates the possibility of the passing of the health care proposal that Obama has been toiling over for nearly his entire presidency thus far), it actually has some positive results for the state, and perhaps even for the Massachusetts Democratic Party. The election of a Republican senator signifies that the people of Massachusetts are not just blind puppets who vote solely based on party lines. If a candidate shows no interest in representing the people to the best of his or her ability, there is a good chance that that candidate will be rejected even if the same party holds nearly every position of power in the state. Brown's victory proves that democracy in Massachusetts is vibrant and thriving.

At the same time, this conclusion should serve as a rousing wake-up call to the Democratic Party in Massachusetts. From this point on, they cannot rubberstamp a candidate and hope that he or she will secure the election by dint of name recognition. At the same time, the party needs to use this blow as an excuse to clean up the corruption that



A REPUBLICAN IN MASSACHUSETTS?

has stunk up state politics for years. For instance, the three predecessors of Speaker Robert DeLeo (Charles Flaherty, Thomas Finneran, and Salvatore DiMasi) have all been charged with crimes that stem from abuse of power. The first two have already been convicted. The state's elected officials include many senior members in the party who enjoy prestige due to seniority instead of merit. And the Democratic members of the state legislature use their overwhelming majority to shove self-serving laws down the throats of their constituents, such as the law that allowed for the governor to nominate a Democratic successor to Kennedy to hold the spot until the special election.

If the Democratic Party wants to maintain its stranglehold over Massachusetts's politics, it will need to learn from Senator-elect Brown's victory against Coakley and clean up its act. Otherwise, it better get used to ridicule, derision and the bitter taste of defeat.

Going Through the Motions

By LUKE MCKINNON, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Happy Valentine's Day! Well, to those of you who celebrate it, that is. I understand that Valentine's Day isn't for everyone. It's like the Saint Patrick's Day for girls instead of Irish people. Even if you're not Irish you can still celebrate it, but only if you wish to; Valentine's Day is pretty much the same. Girls send each other flowers, teddy bears and candy along with whatever else the school is trying to push them to buy. Then, these gifts are sent out like a considerate email blast. But at the same time, a lot of guys don't really "do" Valentine's Day, just as most of China doesn't really "do" Saint Patrick's Day. Similarly, how many people in Dublin are going to have crazy Chinese New Year parties?

But why are guys not into Valentine's Day? The easiest way to put it is that Valentine's Day is pretty much the most feminine event that goes down all year.

It's a holiday covered in pink, flowers and hearts. Also, guys don't really love each other as much as girls do. We are known to be more physical in our transgressions than in our affections. We don't tend to hug each other. I'm not saying anything bad about public displays of affection, but among men, there are just more subtle ways showing we care.

Most guys don't really pay much attention to what happens on Valentine's Day. We don't need to prepare, and if we do, we tend to take it a lot less seriously. It's no big deal. I'm not going to say that it's a bad holiday just because it only exists to sell Hallmark cards, nor am I going to be a hater. It's great that some people care about each other enough to dedicate a saint to their emotions. There's probably a bunch of dudes out there with big romantic plans for February 14. It's mostly the guy's responsibility to start the romance. Whether it's a one-dollar carnation or a masterpiece of a poem, girls are especially receptive to that stuff on this

particular day of the year.

But if any of you ladies out there are disappointed that none of your male friends realized it was Valentine's Day until they got home and looked at Facebook, don't be. Most dudes, unless they like somebody, aren't going to be as excited as most girls. I won't say that guys have more important things to deal with, but the female population is running around with bags full of gifts and flowers for their girl friends. We couldn't tell you these things because you would think that what WE were doing is ridiculous.

Don't be offended when boys stroll around in blissful unawareness of the emotional stake that girls put into this holiday. We aren't trying to insult you or rebel against your ideas of love. We're just "going through the motions" of another Friday. Hopefully, it doesn't bother you too much. Maybe you can still like us despite all of our faults, whether we "do" or don't "do" Valentine's Day. And isn't that what Valentine's Day is all about?

The Omnipotent She-Wolf

Dear Omnipotent She-Wolf,
I've always been a big fan of Apple products. Their products are always sleek, beautiful and so easy to use. And now, I hear that they're starting to produce a line of feminine hygiene products, starting with a sanitary napkin called the iPad! I'm sure that these "iPads" and their sister products will be tons more sanitary and high-tech than any other sanitary napkin I've ever used! The only problem is that they don't release this product until April! What will I do with myself until then?
--NO Patience About Date

Dear NOPAD,
I think you're a bit confused. Although the "iPad" certainly sounds like the name of some sort of high-tech female sanitary napkin, it is simply an oversized iTouch. Unfortunately, it doesn't have all the capabilities of an iTouch and seems to be a letdown already, even before its release. So, I wouldn't stress about it if I were you, because I have a feeling that once people start to get a hold of this product, it will leave them wishing that it was half as useful as your everyday, lo-tech sanitary napkin.

Dear Omnipotent She-Wolf,
My name is Pat Sully O'Connor, and I'm a concerned citizen of South Boston. I've lived in this wonderful neighborhood for 40 years, and therefore, I am appalled that MTV is even considering my city for the second season of Jersey Shore.

This is an outrage. MTV, think of the children instead of providing bad influences for them through your media portrayals! The young adults of Jersey Shore are nothing like those of Southie. They don't at all abuse alcohol, nor do they engage in such promiscuous behavior, nor do they use such profanity. The children of South Boston are innocent, and therefore should be protected. If MTV came in with their camera crews and a brand new cast that is as bad as or even worse than the first, it would encourage children to follow their example. This is an outrage.

What do I do then, Omnipotent She-Wolf, to protect my children, who are just growing up in this dangerous and corrupt world? Think about the children!
--Southie Parent Appalled By MTV

Dear SPABMTV,
I really hope you realize that all of these arguments that you have used are completely false. I am not here to write negatively on Southie, but...it's Southie.

Also, the children will love this! Jersey Shore has become a beloved staple of the Southie teenager's TV diet. Also, if anything, MTV will provide needed money to the South Boston economy, which will provide money for education reform, which will allow your child to go to college, become a doctor, have 2.5 children, and die with your beloved South Boston on their mind.

Seriously, though, maybe you have a point. Maybe MTV should relocate to another city. Maybe MTV should not deviate from the time-tested success with Italian-Americans, an orange-tanned public, and another giant shoreline. Now if only there were such a place in Boston...

Send your anonymous questions, worries, condundrums, lamentations, queries, or anything else you might want to send us to:
blsargo.advicecolumn@gmail.com

Go through the motions and buy carnations!

\$1 for 1 • \$5 for 6

• • • • •

Buy them from *Argo* staff during homeroom or lunch by Wednesday the 10th.

Carnations will be delivered on Friday the 12th.

FORUM

BLS Toilet Paper Situation... Not So Charmin'

JOHN McGRATH, II

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Over my nearly seventeen years of life, I have come to one conclusion when it comes to bowel movements: there is nowhere safer than in my own home. This is because there are always sufficient amounts of toilet paper hanging from our rolls. But when one is walking down the halls of Boston Latin School, and one’s small intestine is crying for the sweet release of excrement, one will often be left with a story to tell one’s friends about the inordinate amount of bathrooms locked and about the catastrophe also known as the toilet paper deficit. Since I’m very uncomfortable with public stalls, I don’t have any personal stories to tell. Over the past couple years, however, I’ve heard grueling accounts of the toilet paper deficit and its effects on the student body. Armando Carlo-Gonzales (II) is the self-proclaimed expert on the toilet paper deficit. He was kind enough to share some of the results of his years of dedicated research concern-

ing the ever-growing problem with the toilet paper. “There is never toilet paper in this school! Even the basement bathroom, which was at one point the best bathroom in the school, has gone straight down the toilet! Last year it had an impressive toilet paper to stall ratio of 1:1. This year it is always locked or even robbed of its toilet paper by hooligans. I asked an administrator one time to unlock that bathroom for me. When I walked in I noticed there was zero toilet paper. I informed the administrator, and she said she would grab some from the janitor’s closet. After ten minutes of waiting, she hands me seven paper towels!” I was left



LACK OF TOILET PAPER

baffled by our expert’s troubling experience because the administrator might as well have given him poison oak. How can you expect someone to wipe with such a rough substitute? And why does this story remind me of so many outdoor camping trips I’ve been on? I know why... BECAUSE NEITHER INVOLVED TOILET PAPER! The situation is the same for the second and third floor bathrooms, as they are either always locked or maintain an embarrassing toilet paper to stall ratio of 1:4. Furthermore, the toilet paper deficit is not only cutting into our comfort, but also into our pockets. Katie Woorainer (II) informed me, “It’s the exact

same with the girls’ bathrooms. They are always locked, whether it be during or after school, and there is never toilet paper. Not to mention the amount of kids who bring their own. Something needs to be done.” KIDS BRING THEIR OWN TOILET PAPER! So instead of using that money to get breakfast before school or buy a book, they’re spending it on toilet paper. There is something seriously wrong with that picture, because BLS is, after all, a public facility with approximately 2400 students currently enrolled. Does BLS really expect all 2400 students to buy their own toilet paper? In this economy...I don’t think so. That is why BLS needs to step up to the plate and get us our toilet paper. Whether it is a problem caused by the custodial workers, the administrators, or even the hooligans “TP-ing” every stairwell in the building, something needs to be done. After all, we are a community and if we don’t unite to solve this dilemma, I’m afraid that our bathroom walls will become a less attractive color, and we all know what color I’m talking about.

State of the Union

By CIARAN FOLEY, II

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On January 27, 2010, President Barack Obama gave his first State of the Union Address before a joint session of Congress, most of the Cabinet, and the stone-faced Supreme Court Justices. The speech in and of itself was pretty good. The one thing that we know about Obama is that he can deliver a good speech, and this speech certainly made the grade. I am no fan of political *jArgon*, but Obama’s address contained enough real substance to counteract what *jArgon* there was. He also truly has an orator’s voice, and although he is no Cicero, he could probably still convince me to banish Catiline and maybe pass some reforms while I am at it. Still, to get to the real content, one has to sift through the grand oratory, the nods to Michelle Obama (as a certain History teacher asked: who wouldn’t applaud for a crusade against child obesity?), and the jokes toward the Republicans that received very little laughter from their bitter targets. It was, of course, the real substance of the speech that was important.

For those who have not heard the speech, here’s a quick content overview. Obama spent a good amount of time talking about the recession and his plans for helping those affected—chiefly workers and small-business owners. He stressed the importance of assisting community and local banks, proposing that they be given \$30 billion in TARP money to encourage them to lend again. He proposed more tax cuts for the imperiled middle class. He again defended his role in bailing out the banks, an issue that most of us have had enough of by now. He stressed job creation and promised that companies employing workers in the domestic market rather than overseas would be given tax breaks. He encouraged measures toward clean energy. To fight the deficit, he urged the renewal of the “pay-as-you-go” law of the 90’s and a three year freeze on some government programs (not including Medicaid, Medicare, or national security). He promised not to give up on healthcare reform, but whether he’ll actually be able to follow through remains to be seen, especially now that the Republicans have broken the Democratic supermajority in Congress. He also proposed a repeal of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy that the Pentagon

implemented in 1993. This was one of the most hopeful and promising details of the speech, and one that I hope will come to fruition (the Pentagon announced earlier this week that it plans to reform the policy somewhat, perhaps an early sign that this promise will actually come to something). He also proposed that students only be required to pay amounts less than 10 percent of their income toward student loans, that families with college students be given tax breaks, and that debt be forgiven after 20 years (or 10 if the student takes a Civil Service job).

Throughout the speech, Obama took a stance which was, confusingly enough, anti-Washington, and in doing so, took a page from Scott Brown’s book (no, not The Da Vinci Code) that helped him do so well in Massachusetts. It’s really not a new move, as politicians seem to be quite fond of beating up politics in front of their constituents, but the extent to which Obama used this tactic was telling. Obama encouraged both parties to work together, and urged anti-lobby and earmark reform legislation to be passed. Now, I am all for legislative reform and I would like to think that there’s a possibility that Congress might pass such abstemious measures, but, in my humble opinion, the days for bipartisanship are over.

Say what you want about Roger Sherman or Henry Clay, but what we need now is not compromise or the much-loved pet phrase of bipartisanship. Throughout 2009, a year when the GOP was absolutely bereft of any real leadership or direction, the Republicans seem to have made it their desperate goal to block every major piece of legislation that made its way to Congress. I guess they think that if they have no ideas of their own (except the ones rejected by voters in ‘06 and ‘08), at least they can try to prevent the Democratic initiatives from passing Congress and, as a result, turn the American people against the Democrats. Unfortunately, this has worked pretty well so far. This is why the Democrats have to be tough on the issues that matter, as hard as that might be. If the Right decides to make a supermajority necessary for any progress to be made in America, then the Left needs to learn how to fight fire with fire.

STATE OF THE UNION

Continued on page 8

Bullied to Death

By BRYN KEANE-FARRELL, I

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On January 14, 2010, Phoebe Prince committed suicide by hanging herself. Earlier that day, as she was walking home from school, one of the girls who had been incessantly taunting her drove by, throwing an energy drink can at her along with a string of insults. Prince ignored this, but upon returning home, she promptly went into her closet and hung herself. Her body was discovered by her 12-year-old sister. Prince was only 15-years-old.

Prince came to the United States in the fall of 2009, moving from Ireland to South Hadley, Massachusetts, an upper-class suburb near the Connecticut River and the town of Amherst. When she came to South Hadley High School, she was



WHAT YOU DIDN'T SEE IN MEAN GIRLS

liked and described as smart and beautiful. Prince had a short-lived romance with a senior at South Hadley High, which ignited the bullies’ wrath. They decided to put Prince in her place, singling her out, calling her an “Irish slut” and harassing her. Not only did they torment her in person, but via Facebook and text messages as well, pushing her to the desperate brink until she was certain that it could never get any worse.

When Springfield reporters flocked to the school after the suicide, one girl informed them that everyone knew about these bullies: they stalked, intimidated and harassed. Later that day, one of the bullies slammed that girl against a locker and punched her.

The bullies even went on Facebook and derided Prince’s death, her torment and her anguish. They lied to State Police, claiming that they had nothing to do with Prince’s suicide. Two days later, at a school dance, they bragged about how they had gotten away with it.

Gotten away with what? Nothing less than cold-blooded murder.

Bullying is not an uncommon phenomenon, especially in middle school and early high school. It’s hard to find a single person who does not have a story about someone else who made his or her life hellish, who purposefully sought to make him or her feel that there was no reason to live. I know that I’ve certainly felt that way. According to FamilyFirstAid and SafeYouth.org, 30 percent of students are involved in bullying one way or another. More specifically, when it comes to female bullies, Stop-Bullies.com reveals that a girl is bullied every seven minutes during school. The prevention rate is even more appalling: adults only intervene 4 percent of all cases while kids intervene 11 percent. That means that 85 percent of the time,

no one bothers to give a damn.

What makes me sick to my stomach is that these girls are still in school, still prowling the hallways of South Hadley High, still mocking the death they caused and bragging about the crime they committed. No one has touched them, not even the law. And that

makes bullies seem invincible.

This shouldn’t be allowed to happen. These girls should be expelled from school, charged with murder and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. It’s impossible for these girls to be unaware of the repercussions of their actions. They went out of their way to isolate Prince and, bit-by-bit, to destroy her sense of self-worth. While death may not have been the bullies’ ultimate goal, their actions unintentionally led to her suicide. If these girls had taken knives, physically tortured Prince until she begged for death, they would have been thrown in jail for their heinous, sick and depraved behavior. Personally, I see no difference.

Phoebe Prince was buried in County Clare, Ireland, where her father lives. She had been looking forward to finally seeing him and visiting her homeland. Her tragic death was a devastating blow to her father, who had been expecting her return.

FORUM

Is declamation a tradition that benefits the student body?



YES

JAKE ZHANG, IV
STAFF WRITER

Declamation has been a tradition at Boston Latin School for nearly 375 years. Public declamation especially has always been regarded as one of the traditions held most dear to the school community. But getting up on the auditorium stage isn't the only aspect of declamation—having the courage to walk in front of one's class to declaim is the real idea behind the revered tradition of recitation.

I have heard it argued that memorizing a declamation piece is a tedious and hopeless process and that students teeter on the brink of madness from the stress during the final moments before their turn to declaim. Atheists become religious in hopes that some deity will whisk them away from the imminent doom. Others wish that they hadn't waited until the night before to begin memorizing their piece. The fact, however, that declamation is part of the term grade at Boston Latin, while many schools don't even offer public speaking as an extracurricular, is something students should be proud of. Few other high schools are refined enough to recognize speech-giving as a critical skill for their students' futures. But for those who dread memorizing their pieces and lack any interest in public speaking, the question lingers: "What is the purpose of having declamation, either in-class or public?"

To put the situation into perspective, I'd like to share some my experiences. As a B-sie entering Boston Latin and lacking any prior declamation experience whatsoever, I set off on an epic journey to discover the meaning behind the treasured tradition. Within my first month of school, well before the start of English and Foreign Language declamation, I memorized a piece by John F. Kennedy to declaim at my first public declamation tryout. I was the last to sign up and waited more than an hour to deliver my speech, which I admit was terribly rushed and not quite well rehearsed. The following morning, I learned with little surprise that I had not made it into public declamation. Undeterred, I sought the advice of Ms. Wendy Holm, the declamation coach and one of the judges on the selection panel. For the next two months, I rehearsed and re-examined the same JFK speech.

Of the things I learned (including not to pace the entire length of the stage as if in need of a restroom break), the thing that struck me most was that memorization made up only a part of what was needed to become a successful declaimer. So, what sort of skills did it take to declaim in front of an audience? This was the question I still carried with me as I walked onto the stage for my second tryout which, I am sorry to say, I failed again. Somewhat less undeterred, I again sought the help of Ms. Holm, and practiced yet another two months on the same speech. Days before the third tryout, we discovered the main obstacle in my performance: expression. Armed with this new knowledge, I stepped up onto the stage for my third tryout, declaimed my heart out and was finally selected to participate in this month's public declamation.

What was my point in sharing this little anecdote? I did not mean to publicly embarrass myself (although that was, perhaps, inevitable); I simply wanted to prove that declamation is more than just memorizing a couple lines of poetry, as the declaimer must convey the same spirit the writers had as they composed their works of literature. In short, it took me four months—nearly half the school year—to understand that declamation is less about memorization than emotion. We declaim not from our heads but from our hearts. That is why declamation is so great; like art and music, declamation can teach us to express ourselves in constructive ways. And that is something that no master at Boston Latin School can teach.

NO

DORA TAO, I
STAFF WRITER

We've all been there. Along with the rest of our grade, we have been escorted to the auditorium with our R1 teachers. We've filed into the rows, making sure to leave the seats at the end of the row empty for the faculty. We've clapped awkwardly for the performers before remembering that we're supposed to hold our applause until the very end. And although we hate to admit it, we've sighed and groaned as yet another student walks up to the center of the stage. You've all been here and you know what I'm talking about. This is public declamation.

I remember when I first came to Boston Latin School and learned that I would have to do declamation. Like everyone else, I had absolutely no idea what it was. I don't exactly remember what it was like to go to my first public declamation the first term of sixie year. However, it's pretty safe to say that I was bored and nervous. During that hour and a half, I had no idea what I was watching. To me, all the event was was a group of formally-dressed students walking up to the stage and reciting things I couldn't even understand. The pieces were confusing and came from plays I had never even heard of. Because I couldn't really comprehend what the students were saying, I stared up at the auditorium's ceiling and spent the entirety of Public Declamation counting the light bulbs.

I think that having seventh graders go to public declamation during their first month at BLS isn't a good idea. Sixies often don't have the attention span to sit through an hour watching upperclassmen reciting speeches and poetry. Since they haven't actually declaimed yet, they don't see the hard work of the declaimers. For them, public declamation is just another assembly that they have to attend.

Although I see the benefits of public declamation and declamation in general, I have never been a big fan of it myself. I dreaded getting up in front of my class every term in seventh and eighth grade. I know declamation is meant to help us discover our confidence and self-esteem; we have to face our fears and stand up in front of the whole class with all eyes on us. It's our time to shine...or is it? Declaiming can be embarrassing, especially if you can't remember the next line in your piece. Once, during Spanish declamation, a student in my class walked up to the front of the room and turned around, ready to declaim. After one line, he stood there with a blank stare. He couldn't remember the next phrase. There was an eerie and awkward silence. I felt horrible for my fellow classmate. He wasn't a bad student; he was probably just so nervous that the words wouldn't roll off his tongue.

I now realize that most people who audition for public declamation have probably practiced their piece countless times. They know it inside and out and aren't afraid to perform it on stage in front of four hundred people. So for them, declamation probably isn't too bad of an experience. However, imagine being somebody in the audience who was kept off Approbation because of a declamation grade, or had to endure an awkward silence during ELA class because of forgotten lines? For this student, public declamation might not be as fun. He or she may be reminded of what happened in previous years and feel ashamed. For some people, it can be hard to watch others excel at something that they, themselves, are not good at. Like some nonathletic kids in gym class, these students feel degraded during these assemblies.

Public declamation can be interesting to watch. For many students, however, it is just another assembly that features students reciting pieces that seem too difficult to comprehend. While some audience members pay attention, there are many who don't value the experience and end up counting the light bulbs the whole time. For them, public declamation is nothing more than just an excuse to skip two periods.

Forum
Question

Is declamation a tradition that benefits the student body?



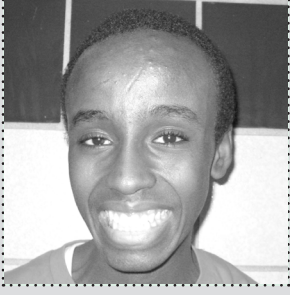
"Yes, it's not fun, but it helps with your public speaking skills."
—Ashley Winkfield, I



"I'm for it because it maintains the prestige of the school."
—Isabel Flynn, II



"Public declamation allows some to showcase talent that they otherwise couldn't, but I doubt the efficacy of declamation in general."
—Shi An, III



"Nah, 'cause it just makes you feel embarrassed when you mess up and can't remember the words."
—Khalid Sharmarke, IV



"Yes, declamation benefits us because it helps us get over stage fright and learn better public speaking."
—Anthony Cherry, V



"I think it's cool to watch, but I wouldn't want to participate in it."
—Michael Sherrit, VI

FORUM BLSTV

BY BEATA COLOYAN, I
& DORA TAO, I
FORUM EDITOR & STAFF WRITER

Some of you may have noticed that BLSTV has been down for the past two weeks. On the other hand, most of you probably haven't. In fact, some of you may not even know what BLSTV is, and that's incredibly sad.

How has this mentality gotten here? Like many of the sacred traditions at this school, BLSTV is no longer as exciting as when it was first introduced to the student body. It has fallen into the obscurity of public declamation, the Sixie Social and the mere study of Latin itself. "I remember the first time I watched BLSTV as a sixie, I thought it was really cool that BLS even had a TV studio," says Marcelle Goggins (I). "But now, I feel bad that my homeroom doesn't watch it anymore." It seems that almost every year there is another homeroom teacher who doesn't want to listen to the announcements in the morning. When the news does grace a homeroom, some students don't even attempt to pay attention.

A few teachers at school have mentioned that they don't turn on BLSTV because it is too much of a hassle. "People

aren't going to hook up their laptops. There's so many strikes against BLSTV that I'm surprised they're still in business," said a teacher who has been teaching at Boston Latin School for a long time. Some teachers don't even have projectors in their rooms, which makes it impossible



to show BLSTV. Similarly, the school's technology is obviously behind in a race against the world's ever progressing technology. The same teacher mentions, "Our technology is in worse shape than we were years ago. We've regressed and at this rate, I'm going to be coming to school in my horse and buggy."

BLSTV has proven to be an advance in technology, but it is something that many students are not able to embrace.

While all of us have been guilty of neglecting the morning news, BLSTV still deserves much credit. Although the ratings have certainly gone down, the club has tried to make each and every morning more interesting. As a sophomore, I personally remember the Kieran and

Oliver Show on Fridays and the guest appearances that various sports teams would make to broadcast their upcoming games. In addition, the infamous Moses Tran ('09) ads on the station definitely helped him win the spot of treasurer last year.

This year, changes have been made, and I, for one, am grateful. With the addition of the weather channel, the movie reviews on Thursdays and the mix of anchors, each and every broadcast seems new and different. In fact, the anchors are forced to go through an audition process each year to guarantee an interesting broadcast. "As an anchor, I especially look forward to Thursdays when Katherine Nosal (I) and Emily Cirillo (I) tell me what's good. I only go to the movies based on their reviews," says Tori Coyne (I). Unfortunately, all of these changes have gone unnoticed because no one has even given it a chance!

So next time you're sitting in homeroom, counting down the seconds until you move to your dreaded R1 class, just simply ask your teacher to turn it on. Stop talking to your neighbor, stop trying to finish that homework that can't be done in less than five minutes and PAY ATTENTION. You might be surprised by what you find

And until then, BLSTV will always have at least a fan: Homeroom 115.

STATE OF THE UNION *Continued from page 6*

The Democrats are so terribly afraid of being labeled as dirty politicians that they just sit and do nothing when it matters most. They need to soon realize that politics IS dirty and that if they want to retain the historic majority the American people bestowed upon them in 2006, they need to act now.

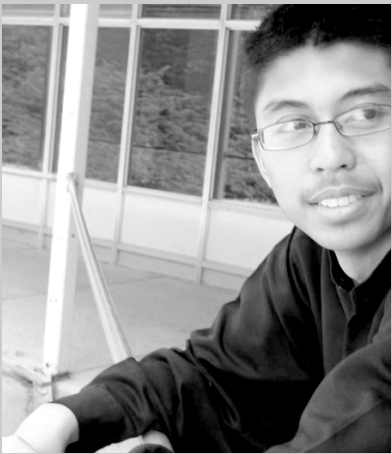
This has been the tragedy of Obama's presidency so far. True, the embittered Right has stymied many of his attempts at progress, but he has only himself to blame. For a man with his

celebrity and all those images of Hope and Change invoked by the very mention of his name, he has shown shockingly little political clout thus far. Although he went to Amsterdam to support Chicago's bid for the 2016 Olympics and came to Massachusetts to stump for Coakley (although you might have missed that one, along with the rest of her dismal campaign), he returned from both events empty handed. Can we expect any more from him on Capitol Hill?

All is not doom and gloom. There were some bright spots. Obama's suggestions for higher education reform were definitely promising, and I would be es-

pecially happy if they were passed before I graduate. Still, any State of the Union Address must be taken with a grain of salt. No president has ever been able to accomplish everything he promises in his State of the Union, and Obama is in a tougher situation than many have been in the past. In general, though, we can use the speech as a benchmark to measure Obama's second year (using his first year as reference won't please us or him) against which we can hold Obama to his word. In conclusion, I leave you, readers, with a solemn hope that 2010 will be a whole lot better than 2009.

Spotlight Gerome Paradela



BY LI HUANG, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

To start off, I am actually very excited to be writing a spotlight in the newly added section of our beloved *Argo*. I had always wanted to write a spotlight for someone who was not a part of the school's sports or music department, but was originally told I wasn't able to. And I'm glad after a long rant to a fellow friend on the *Argo* committee, this page was made possible for those amazing seniors.

Gerome Paradela, a name you may or may not have heard of, is definitely unique. Like name, like person, Gerome is one of a kind! Born into a Filipino family on August 31, 1992, he just managed to make it into the graduating year of 2010. Even though we had both entered Boston Latin School in seventh grade, I didn't even know he existed until sophomore year. By then, half my career at BLS was already wasted away without Gerome in my life! However, in these short two, almost three years, this goofy kid has become my best friend.

If you don't know him well, you would probably find him to be as annoying as anything; you might even compare him to Brainy from *Hey Arnold!* (you know, the kid Helga would punch in every episode). But once you get to know him, you'll realize that he's a very kind, caring and lovable person underneath. He never fails to have a beaming, goofy smile to greet you everyday.

And when you have a horrible teacher and don't understand something that was taught in class, he'll always try to help. Even when he doesn't share the same teacher, he'll spend the extra time to learn the material on his own just to help you ace the next test. He always puts his friends before himself; you could even call him at 3:30 in the morning and he'll wake himself up just to listen to your problems and comfort you. Even when he has his own problems, he'd rather help you get through yours than even think about dealing with his.

Although Gerome may not have been in three different sports since seventh grade, the president of five different clubs, and even been asked to stop playing percussion for band after two years, he joined the Philippine Dance Company of Boston when he was about ten. Now at seventeen, he is still an active member. From this, you can tell how loyal he is to the things he chooses to do and the people he chooses to bring into his life. So, if you don't already know Gerome one way or another, I advise you to meet this friendly fellow—I guarantee you won't regret it! Instead, you might just regret not meeting him sooner. I know I did.

But for the years I did know him, I just want to thank Gerome for helping me with school, putting up with all my troubles and acts of ridiculousness, and just always being by my side through anything and everything. I love you, man.

Mary Jane McLeod Bethune was an American educator and civil rights leader best known for founding Bethune-Cookman University

Boston Latin School
salutes those
African-Americans
who have
dedicated their
lives to improve
this nation in
honor of

**Black
History
Month**

Big Band Makes It Big

BY ELIZABETH VANDORPE, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This past January, the Boston Latin School Big Band was selected into the final round of the Charles Mingus High



KEVIN BROWN (III), BIG BAND TROMBONIST

School Competition and Festival – a national jazz recording competition. The BLS Big Band was one of three big bands chosen to travel to New York City and will be competing in the regular school (non-arts) big band category.

This is the first time that the band has been named a finalist in a recording competition. Normally, the band enters the Essentially Ellington recording competition. This year, however, Mr. Paul Pitts decided to try something new and entered the band into the Mingus Competition last fall. Luckily for him and all the members of the Big Band, the risk paid off.

The Big Band prepared four songs and recorded them in November, from which Mr. Pitts then chose the final three to submit. The first, “Nostalgia in Time Square,” features an opening monologue performed by Michael Macierowski (I), a trumpet solo by Matt Hull (I), a piano solo by Mike Raleigh (II), and a bass solo by Matt Pitts (III). The second was “Sue’s Changes,” a ballad written to capture the ever-shifting moods of Sue, Mingus’ wife. It features solos by Hull, Raleigh and Warren Thompson (II), as well as sev-

eral sections of free group improvisation. Currently, the band is working together to negotiate tempo changes and releases and combining elements of classical music with jazz.

The final song submitted was “Haitian Fight Song,” a lively piece featuring a bass intro by Pitts and solos by Thompson on soprano saxophone and Hull, Raleigh, and Joe Hartigan (I) on drums. It is constructed primarily of one repeating phrase, layered and gradually built throughout the song. The brass and saxophone entrances are staggered, which add to the overall intensity

of the piece.

Because of this, “Haitian Fight Song” has quickly become one of the favorite pieces in the band’s repertoire. Many members believe that it had a key role in their success in the competition. Trombonist Dan Moreno (II) says, “I

think that this is the farthest that Big Band has gone from my first joining, and I am definitely proud to be in the band this year. I’ve been excited ever since Mr. Pitts yelled ‘NYC BABY!’ as I was leaving the dining hall the day he found out. I can’t wait to see what’s in store for all of us in New York. We couldn’t have done it without Mr. Pitts’ life stories, lectures, and unique interpretation of the music.”

The Big Band will leave for New York City on Friday, February 12, and return two days later on Sunday, February 14.

While there, they will attend a variety of events, including workshops, clinics and concerts, culminating in the final concert at 2:15 on Sunday and an award ceremony later on that night. Regarding these events, Edbert Wang (I) says that he cannot wait to “learn from skilled musicians and to be with jazz bands from around the country.”

In addition to first, second and third prize, the competition recognizes individual achievement: special awards will be given to outstanding soloists, sections and student arrangers. In the end, though, the competition really provides opportunities. The most important one? The opportunity for the band to discover the true meaning of the phrase “reminiscing to the rhythm of the city.”



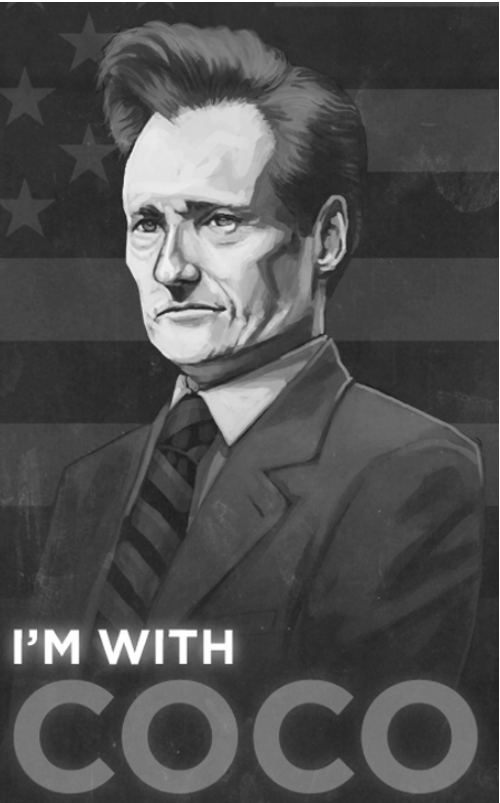
“JAZZING” IT UP AT THE HOLIDAY CONCERT

Conan Gets Canned

BY JOE GRAHAM, I
STAFF WRITER

If you had said to me two months ago that Conan O’Brien would soon be off the air, I probably would have laughed in your face. However, the reality is here: O’Brien’s career on the *Tonight Show* is over, as is his contract with the National Broadcasting Company (NBC). The low ratings of the *Tonight Show*, as well as the *Jay Leno Show*—which precedes O’Brien at 10:00 P.M.—seem to have taken their toll on NBC. Of course, the whole ordeal is more complicated than that, but it is not impossible to understand.

Five years ago, Jay Leno was the host of the *Tonight Show*, and O’Brien was the host of the *Late Night*. Leno had planned to retire after five years as the host and pass the role on to O’Brien. In turn, O’Brien would pass the role as host of *Late Night* onto Jimmy Fallon. However, what had not been taken into account was that *Late Night* was, and still is, set in NBC studios in New York, while the *Tonight Show* is set in Universal Studios in Los Angeles, California. As a result, O’Brien and his entire staff had to uproot their lives and move across



WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

the country in order to keep their jobs. Despite this, O’Brien’s new *Tonight Show* was aired as planned on June 1, 2009. Unexpectedly, however, unrest led Leno

to seek another contract with NBC. He wanted another show and was given the *Jay Leno Show*, which premiered on September 14, 2009.

Now, fast forward to January 12, 2009. NBC decided to take action in response to low ratings. Their initial plan was to shorten Leno’s show to thirty minutes and move it to 11:35 P.M., then push O’Brien’s *Tonight Show* to 12:05 A.M. O’Brien did not agree, noting that this decision would seriously damage the *Tonight Show* franchise, and would also affect the time slot of Fallon, the current host of *Late Night*. In his public statement, O’Brien said, “My hope is that NBC and I can resolve this quickly so that my staff, crew and I can do a show we can be proud of, for a company that values our work.”

Sadly, that did not happen. O’Brien was forced off the air, and Leno jumped at the chance to return to the *Tonight Show*. He struck an hour deal from 11:35 P.M. to 12:35 A.M. with NBC on January 14, 2010.

CONAN GETS CANNED
Continued on page 10

Spotlight Elle Brigida



BY ANNA FRAPPAOLO, I
STAFF WRITER

If you’ve ever talked to Elle Brigida, you know that she always has some sort of joke up her sleeve, even if it’s not a very funny one. She radiates happiness and has a permanent smile on her face. She has been known to make up a few of her own words (too inappropriate to print in the *Argo*) so the average English speaker may have a hard time understanding her at first. You get used to it, though.

I first met Elle in the ninth grade in Schoolmaster Smith’s Latin class where we were always getting in trouble. It’s hard not to laugh when you’re sitting next to this girl. We quickly became friends, making many trips to Six Flags (supah losahs 4L) and bonding over our love for musicals (being the true theater geeks we are). If you have not had the chance to speak with Elle or Ellay Beh, as she is sometimes called, you have probably heard her sing. She can belt like no other and has actually been compared to Glee’s resident diva, Rachel Berry (Lea Michelle).

If you have, somehow, missed all of her vocal performances, you can go on the Boston Latin School Arts website and download one of her MP3s. Or you could simply drop into one of Mr. Barry’s English classes, and you may be lucky enough to catch her performing a Spice Girls song. She can, also, be found driving around in her Chevrolet TrailBlazer, singing duets with her faithful sidekick, Tien, their voices blending together harmoniously like a choir of angels.

Elle is a member of almost every musical group at BLS, whether it’s chorus, band or theater. She’s a Wolfette, as well as a member of the Chamber Choir and Show Choir (you may want to check out one of the videos because this girl knows how to work it). She is a percussionist in Concert Band and Football Band. Elle has even starred in a few musicals at BLS, including *Fame*, *The Secret Garden*, and *Merrily We Roll Along*.

Outside of the school, Elle has performed at the UnCommon Theater, landing the lead role as Mme. Thenardier in *Les Miserables* two years ago. She will be playing Eliza Doolittle in the upcoming performance of *My Fair Lady* at the Neighborhood Children’s Theater. But that’s not all. Elle sings at her church and is a member of her Catholic Youth Organization basketball team (she has some pretty impressive battle wounds as evidence).

Elle is currently applying to a number of prestigious schools for musical theater, such as Carnegie Mellon, Emerson and University of Michigan—so become friends with her now before she becomes a huge hit on Broadway.

I love ya Ellie Brigida, and maybe we’ll both end up in New York together on Broadway (“That’d be bomb.”) Even if it’s not printed in the yearbook, we’ll always be Best Friends 2010!

CONAN GETS CANNED
Continued from page 9

I cannot help but be extremely disappointed in Leno. No matter how one looks at it, he seems to be the “bad guy” in this situation. By resuming his job as host of the *Tonight Show*, it appears that he was originally disinclined to give it up in the first place. Even worse is how O’Brien’s staff was affected by the disaster. They, too, are unemployed as a result of this *Late*

Night fiasco. Luckily, though, O’Brien did work out a \$45 million deal with NBC—\$12 million of which will go to the members of his staff and crew. However, he cannot host another show until September.

O’Brien has remained positive throughout the ordeal. He has played off the loss of his job until the very end, posting the *Tonight Show* on Craigslist as one of his skits and constantly making fun of the situation. During one of his opening monologues, O’Brien responded

to NBC officials who did not want him to be seen on the network: “If NBC doesn’t want people to see me, just leave me on NBC.”

On his final show, which was aired on January 23, O’Brien gave an emotional, yet hopeful message to his viewers and fans. He conveyed his appreciation to the massive support he had received during the conflict, and how he was thankful to have had a wonderful career with NBC. He was also grateful for the opportunity

of being the host of the *Tonight Show*, something every comedian dreams of. O’Brien’s final words encapsulate just the kind of man he is: “Please do not be cynical. I hate cynicism. For the record, it’s my least favorite quality, it doesn’t lead anywhere. Nobody in life gets exactly what they thought they were going to get. But if you work really hard and you’re kind, amazing things will happen. I’m telling you, amazing things will happen.”

Living Up to Its Soggy Name

BY BIANCA SAUNDERS, I
STAFF WRITER

For those of you who are hopeless romantics like me, you are probably scuttling around desperately in search of the



perfect Valentine’s Day spot: somewhere with class, atmosphere and divine food. Having been born and bred an Italian girl, I thought it best to turn to the North End, a favorite date spot of mine. For my destination, I chose Assaggio on

Prince Street, a quaint and cozy-looking restaurant with great prices for a North End location.

Upon walking into the dimly lit dining area, I soon realized that Assaggio was anything but quaint and cozy. The style was magnificent and grand, with a sleek, softly-lit bar that added to the ambiance. Golden walls, accentuated by a beautifully painted circular ceiling and dangling golden cherub provided a romantic mood. However, the grandeur of the interior was nullified by tables that were packed tighter together than a herd of sheep. I could hear the conversations of every table around me, but could barely make out what my date was saying. It was noisy to the point of irritation, and the careless arrangement of the tables made making my way to the bathroom an arduous task.

When it comes to Italian food, I have pretty high standards. I expect nothing less than heaven from the North End. Although Assaggio’s menu has an expansive and pleasant variety of choices - from appetizers and fish to pasta and chicken - it failed to provide an authentic Italian taste for me. My date and I ordered the Caprese, a traditional starter dish of tomatoes adorned with mozzarella and basil and drizzled in oil, usually a delicious treat. However, As-

saggio’s Caprese, priced at a fair eight dollars and ninety-five cents, was mediocre. Although the mozzarella was fresh and tasty and the presentation was creative, the tomatoes tasted frozen and were drenched in basil. I found it unimpressive that a dish this simple to make could be anything less than satisfying. It did not help to find that even the bread was stale and disappointing.

The main courses failed to compensate for Assaggio’s earlier shortcomings. I ordered the Gnocchi Marinara, a popular potato-based pasta, which while not terrible, was generic and far from the high standards usually reserved for the North End. My date ordered the Pollo all’ Assaggio, which was a creatively prepared dish consisting of chicken stuffed with mozzarella, prosciutto, and basil, but unfortunately deemed “soggy.”

However, the Assaggio experience was not all bad. On a Saturday night at



THE ASSAGGIO STOREFRONT

six-thirty, my date and I were able to get seated immediately upon arrival, even without reservations. This was then followed by pleasant and speedy service, and our generously-portioned meal came to only forty-five dollars for the two of us. Typically, getting seated immediately in the North End on a Saturday night and paying under fifty dollars for two people is regarded as nothing less than a gift from the heavens, and is particularly perfect for busy and broke high school students. However, given the choice, I would recommend spending more time and money to dine at Lucca’s over on Hanover Street.

The Skinny on *Skins*

OLIVIA GRANT, I
STAFF WRITER

Season 4 of *Skins* is back with a bang! This season brings together the Bristol Bunch for one last “hurrah” in their last year of college (the U.K. equivalent to senior year of high school). In *Skins*, the cast of crazy characters (Cook, Effy, JJ, Freddie, Pandora, Emily, Katie, Naomi and Thomas) take us on a wild ride, entertaining us with some crazy antics that we only wish we had the guts to do. For those not familiar with the infamous and delightfully addicting series, allow me to introduce to you the plot:

The show follows the lives of a group of teenagers in Bristol, England. For the first two seasons of *Skins*, the group consisted of the manipulative Tony (Nicholas Hoult), the doormat Sid (Mike Bailey), the seductive Michelle (April Pearson), the talented Jal (Larissa Wilson), the artistic Maxxie (Mitch Hower), the hilarious Anwar (Dev Patel from *Slumdog Millionaire*), the crazy Cassie (Hannah Murray) and the easygoing Chris (Joe Dempsie). These eight teens have gone through their share of highs and lows—from eating disorders and teenage pregnancy to stalkers and sexuality. Most of the episodes center around one of these main characters and delve into his or her life. Paul Gels (I), a devoted *Skins* fan, explains the show’s appeal: “A lot of people kind of just see the show as a bunch of kids partying, but it’s really more than

that. The development that the characters go through is fascinating! And I find most of the characters super relatable!” Unfortunately, just like in life, the characters that we develop a bond with must leave to attend university or follow another path. We, the viewers, are introduced to a new set of characters.

The new Bristol bunch introduced in Season 3 revolves around the troublemaker Cook (Jack O’Connell), his best mate and aspiring magician JJ (Ollie Barbieri), their burn-out friend Freddie (Luke Pasqualino), the unobtainable girl of their dreams Effy (Kaya Scodelario), her naive best friend Pandora (Lisa Blackwell), her sweet boyfriend Thomas (Merveille Lukeba) and the rest of their friends. Although the general *Skins* fan base was originally skeptical of the new group, we grew to love the characters as we watched them deal with issues of love, self-destruction, acceptance and much more.

The first season had a great start, giving the audience a shocking plot-twist not even three minutes into the first show.

So, it was only natural to assume that the rest of the episode would be packed with nonstop action and drama, in the typical *Skins* fashion. The episode, however, did not quite live up to that expectation, partly due to the main character Thomas and his inability to give the show a good



SKINS: “TEENAGERS TRYING TO SEIZE THE DAY”

plot line to follow. As a result, the show was lacking the strong lead character and momentum it deserved.

Nevertheless, the unexpected situation at the beginning of the show will definitely serve as the catalyst for this season. With constant drama and humor thrown in for good measure and new character developments, interesting relationships,

and plot turns at just the right time, this season will not disappoint. Even with the few let downs the first episode brought, another *Skins* lover, Adriana Lasso-Harrier (II) adds, “I still love *Skins* no matter what.” She is not the only one either.

The British phenomenon *Skins* airs on the E4 channel every Thursday at ten o’clock. Because this is America, and we do not have the privilege of receiving the E4 channel, you will have to resort to the website to catch up on your weekly dose of *Skins*. New Season 4 episodes are uploaded every Friday. It is recommended, however, that you watch this show without parents and little children around (and preferably with headphones). This advice should not be taken lightly because *Skins* definitely pushes the boundaries.

Overall, *Skins* is a very compelling show that deals with teenagers trying to seize the day and understand life as we know it. If this show does anything, it definitely teaches you how to live. I, for one, know that we could all use a little ‘carpe diem.’

A & E Improv Improved

By **BOBBY FITZPATRICK, III**
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

Improvising is when someone performs spontaneously with no planned script and is forced to rely on his or her own intuition as to what to do next. While I was at the Boston Latin School Improv Troupe’s most recent show, cleverly entitled “Why Don’t We Do Improv in the Road?,” I noticed that it is extremely hard to judge improv because many factors must be taken into consideration. Everyone creates his or her own jokes and is accountable for his or her own creative genius. The consequence of this is that one improviser might be hysterical while three others may be completely lacking in comedic timing, as well as the ability to speak in full sentences. This leaves us, the audience, waiting for specific improvisers to come on stage and tickle our funny bone. Luckily, in this past show, the most gifted improvisers knew when to step it up, effectively counterbalancing those of the cast who were less than funny.

In any improv show, the quality of the performance relies heavily on the reactions of the audience. For instance, if the timing had been perfect and the audience did not laugh at all, the show would have been a flop. Thankfully this was not the case; the creative genius of the troupe’s captains kept the audience enthused and laughing throughout the performance.

In one of the games of the show, “Survivor,” the audience got to choose which character to “kill off.” Usually this was either the least entertaining character or the one that was least important to the situation. Playing this game was a smart decision on the troupe’s part

because the audience was able to choose what they witnessed, making the percentage of viewers not asleep, knitting, or otherwise distracted skyrocket above that of the Daytime Emmys.

In another side-splitting game, “Late to Work,” the audience got to set the scenario, choosing why the character was late to work, how he eventually got there and what he would do to appease his boss. The collaboration of both improvisers and audience in the playing of this game led to hilarious antics. The suggestions alone were almost as funny as the skit itself; one of the suggestions for why the character was late to work was because they were stuck in an Avatar body. The ability of the improvisers to take these suggestions and instantly transform them into hilarious skits truly made this show uproarious. Another thing that struck me when viewing this show was that the camaraderie amongst the Troupe members was genuine and entertaining. Each character was given a certain comedic depth, which made every skit seem more like an absurd real life situation, rather than a hastily thought up sketch.

With the show having gone right, I left the Black Box Theater content,



THE IMPROV COCAPTAINS (SANS NOELIA, WHO ACTUALLY DOES MORE WORK THAN ALL OF THEM)

knowing that my three dollar entrance fee had not gone to waste. I was entertained and found the experience enjoyable. The fact that I had laughed numerous times made the whole show worth seeing. Although some people or skits made me more uncomfortable than a lumpy couch, they made for good conversation after the show. All in all, the very funny cast members had the ability to make the audience laugh so hard that the person next to me cried. This made the slow parts worth it. If the Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe continues to exponentially coalesce, then the next show is a must see! Besides the cult classic *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, there are few other instances in which the audience is just as enjoyable as the show itself. Interactive theater is the new frontier and the Yellow Submarine is taking us there.

Spotlight Paul Gels



By **SARAH MINAHAN, I**
& **LEANNA EHRLICH, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

It’s 6:00 A.M. Paul Gels leaps out of bed and shoots himself a dashing look in the mirror, giving himself a wink and flipping his hair. He pulls on a pair of gray acid-wash skinny jeans and a form-fitting American Apparel T-shirt, attire which certainly contributed to his status as runner-up for Best Body 2010. Finally, he grabs his Converse, sweatshirt and pea coat, and is ready to greet the gossip.

Even if you’ve never spoken to Paul Gels, chances are you’ve spoken about him. If not, you can rest assured that he’s spoken about you. Paul Gels, a.k.a. Gossip Gels, is not only a fashion icon but also the best source of school-wide gossip. Before class starts, he can be found in the senior hallway conferring with one of his many minions on the latest Boston Latin School gossip. A typical text from Paul would read: “Spotted: A on N’s lap. M better watch her man. xoxo, Gossip Gels.”

One would think that with hundreds of loyal followers to command and the countless responsibilities that come with being elected Queen Bee, Paul wouldn’t have time for extracurricular activities. But with a starring role as Lane the Manservant in the BLS Theatre Company’s “The Importance of Being Earnest,” practice with the Show Choir and a stint with the Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe, Paul keeps himself busy. Sometimes he even sacrifices his fashion sense for his extracurriculars: “Spotted: Queen P buying sweatpants [for show choir]. What is this world coming to?”

Back in the 8th grade, our first impression of Paul was that he looked like Harry Potter and had a very distinctive voice. Although he wore his black “this is what cool looks like” T-shirt with the same pride as he does today, Paul was a very different boy. Fortunately for us, however, Paul soon matured into the impossibly fast, pale white, and ice-cold 17-year-old man that we have come to know and love. Even after this transformation, Paul remembers his roots; he still remembers the important lessons in Chinese he learned at the Josiah Quincy Lower School, and continues to build off these early linguistic skills. With his near fluency in Spanish, Paul is an international force to be reckoned with and will be heading to Eastern Europe over break to perfect his German, Czech, and Polish.

Of course, we’re not so sure Eastern Europe is ready to greet such royalty. This year, Paul became BLS’s first officially elected Queen Bee and winner of the Most Popular superlative. If you haven’t already, start a conversation with him; he’ll be sure to advise you through drama in exchange for some gossip anytime. Look around and you’ll always be able to find him; he can be seen coordinating outfits with his lunch table and chatting up girls in the hallway.

Top Ten Pick Up Lines

By **BEVERLY NGUYEN, II**
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

10. You have nicer legs than an isoceles right triangle.
9. Is your last name Gillete? Because you're the best a man can get.
8. If you were a laser gun, you'd be set on 'stunning'.
7. If you were a chicken, you'd be imPECKable.
6. I'm not being obtuse, but you're acute girl.
5. Are you from Tennessee? 'Cause you're the only Ten I see.
4. Bond. James Bond.
3. Fat Penguin. [What!]? I just thought I'd say something to break the ice.
2. Are you Jamaican? 'Cause Jamaican me crazy!
1. So...you're a girl, huh?



...Happy
Valentine’s
Day!
—The *Argo*
Staff

Horoscopes



By **NELSON ARNOUS, II**
CINDY WONG, II
& **BERNADETTE PHAM, II**
STAFF WRITER & LAYOUT ASSOCIATES

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)
Next time you wake up in the morning feeling like P. Diddy, grab your glasses, head out the door, bus it into the city, be sure you didn’t brush your teeth with a bottle of Jack, cause when Manny walks you out, you ain’t coming back.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20)
Your sensitive nature will reveal itself in a very public manner. As you weep in Ruggles station, Fenway High kids will laugh and your friends will edge away.

Aries (March 21 - April 19)
Want a new look? Three letters: G.T.L.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)
Roses are overrated. Give your sweetheart a Venus flytrap to spice up your love life.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)
That random kid who keeps asking for your homework doesn’t actually need it. What he needs is a better, less annoying excuse to come talk to you.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)
Ladies and Germs, time to stop taking those quizzes in the teenybopper magazines to see how love-compatible you are. Just buy him/her a gosh-darn carnation and show them.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)
Now is a good time to learn how to fight... or duck.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

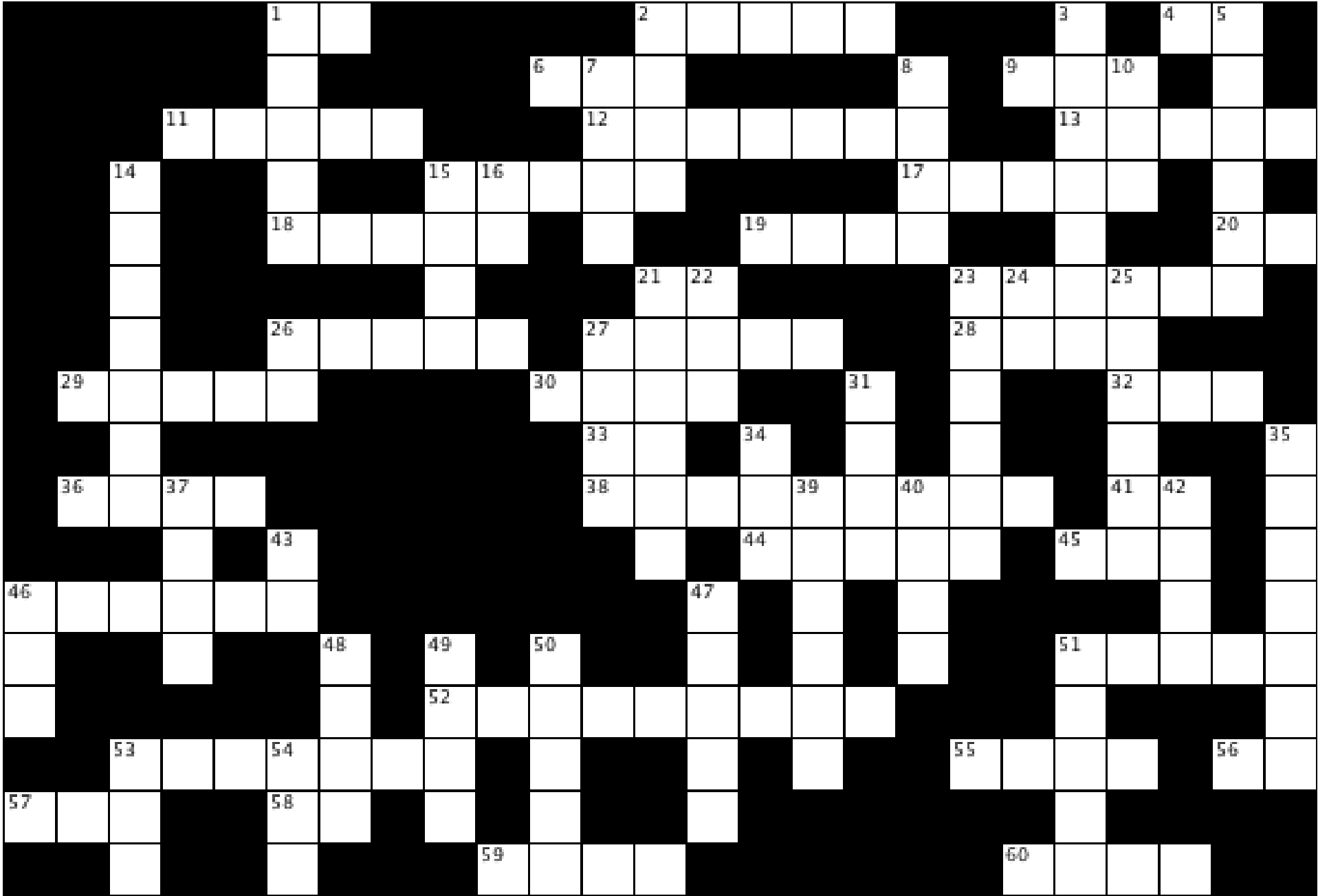
In order to be together, first you need TO-GET-HER!

Libra (September 23 - October 22)
Rethink last month’s New Year’s resolution. It’s supposed to be a resolution, not a miracle.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)
Dressing like Lady Gaga won’t get you any friends.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)
Nope, love isn’t coming your way anytime soon. But hey, look on the bright side-- you don’t have to worry about dressing in decent clothing or taking care of your personal hygiene. Lucky you!

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)
Stop dressing like Waldo. Sure, it’s cool, but your true love will never find you!



- ## Across

 - Round of 8 (abbr.)
 - “The Rookie” of Ocean’s Eleven
 - Pittsburgh university founded by Andrew Carnegie (abbrv.)
 - Catalyst for an actor’s entrance
 - Discovery Channel game show: Cash ____
 - Dora the Explorer’s BFF
 - A remedy for all diseases or ills; cure-all
 - Bleach, in chemical terms
 - Beloved BLS janitor
 - Pretty much Napoleon Dynamite’s favorite animal
 - Beloved ‘09 sweetheart: ____ Cranston
 - Poker precursor
 - Pauly D’s occupation
 - A quarter of a gallon (abbr.)
 - Wake up in the morning, feeling like this rapper
 - Largest human artery
 - British line; Manchu hairdo
 - Norway capital
 - Superman alter-ego: ____ Kent
 - One of the ‘09 Editors-In-Chief
 - Simpsons expression
 - The Sooner state
 - Mythological Himalayan creature
 - Said “I think, therefore I am”
 - To go, in Spanish
 - To bring, in Spanish
 - US Supreme Court abortion case: ____ v. Wade
 - Largest Swiss city
 - Of, or suggestive of, a wild animal; savage
 - Leader of slaves against the Romans
 - The Cowardly Dog
 - Beyonce’s boo
 - Preemptive of “NP,” in internet lingo
 - Sis alternative
 - Gold, periodically
 - Crossroads; eating utensil
 - Brock’s go-to Pokemon
- ## Down

 - Northeastern Mexican restaurant
 - College authority
 - Not Boston’s City Hall, but close
 - Shawty’s like a this in my head
 - 2010 Golden Globe ‘Best Screenplay’: ____ the Air
 - Harvard rival
 - Required exam for lawyers
 - ____ Longbottom, of Harry Potter fame
 - Springfield anchorman: ____ Brockman
 - 15-season long medical drama series
 - The religion of granola fans everywhere
 - “Drop and give me ____”
 - Emblematic of a cause: ____ child
 - Nintendo game consul
 - Pokemon resembling an Ostrich, but with three heads
 - The Last Frontier (abbr.)
 - The ‘Q’ of QED
 - ‘09 Argo competition?
 - SAT alternative
 - 1872 presidential candidate nominated by two parties
 - Choice cereal for rabbits
 - ‘07 Argo Editor-In-Chief
 - A face-to-face meeting; a this to this
 - To laugh, in Spanish
 - Ammonium, without the 4
 - One of the ‘08 Argo Editors-In-Chief
 - Irish poet; Nobel Prize winner of 1923
 - Hawaiian feast
 - Boston Latin School entrance exam
 - “Where’s ____?”
 - Beloved Scrubs janitor (actor)
 - Chief of Medicine and Residency Director of Sacred Heart Hospital
 - 2004 film starring Jamie Foxx; emanation from the sun

Easy

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SPORTS

Nearing the State Tourney

BY NOEL HAINES, I
STAFF WRITER

With the end of the season approaching, the Boston Latin School Boys' Hockey Team remains focused on finishing its final games with a strong performance. The team's 7-4-3 record has put it in a position to earn a spot in the state tournament, while its improvement over the season has given the team the experience and preparation it needs to make a successful run. Led by captains Justin Evangelista (I) and Conal Lynch (III), the team is living up to the high standards which it put forth at the beginning of the season.

One obstacle that limited the team's success early in the season was its struggle to close out games. A couple of its losses in the first half of the season came in games where BLS enjoyed early leads, only to see them vanish in the third period. A change in mentality, however, seems to have helped solve that problem. Lynch states, "We've been getting better in the third period lately. We haven't been

letting up. Instead, we've been attacking rather than defending." This strategy has helped the team secure a win in its match against Bedford High School, in which a pair of third period goals from Kevin Cotrone (III) added to a 3-0 lead as BLS went on to win 5-1. Performances like this have kept the team undefeated in its last four games, a streak it hopes to maintain.

A number of players, especially younger ones, have also assumed large roles, contributing to the season's success. The team looks to Lynch, Cotrone and Evangelista for points, as the three lead the league in scoring. Juniors also play a key part on the team. Evangelista states, "Jake Urso (II) and Alex Brown (II) have stepped up and set the tone for the second line, and Brian Mylett (II) has stepped up to be a leader back on defense. Gabe Diop (II) has continued his success this season between the pipes and shows no hint of slowing down." The key to the team's great season, however, is not these personal efforts, but rather how they all add up. "There has been a lot of individual success this season, but without

everyone producing and doing their jobs, we would be nowhere," says Evangelista. "This team has really come together, and we have proved to each other that we can beat anyone."

Both captains view their game against Tewksbury High School on January 23 as their best one yet and as proof of how dangerous they can truly be. After a 2-1 loss to Tewksbury earlier this season, this contest ended in a 2-2 tie. "It was a great team game and everyone who played stepped up and left it all on the ice. We played one of the best teams in the state and showed we are a force to be reckoned with," says Evangelista.

With stronger plays late in games, a talented lineup and confidence in its ability, Boys' Hockey has made this season a unique one. The disappointment of recent years has been replaced with hope and satisfaction. Lynch states, "My favorite part of the season has been actually winning games. Over my past few years we haven't really had a chance at making the tournament, and now we are very close."



THE CREAM OF THE WINTER SPORTS' CROP

Crunch Time

MIKE TOMASINI, II
STAFF WRITER

Only a few games are left in the season; the State Tournament is quickly approaching, and the Boston Latin School Girls' Hockey Team plans on making it all the way. The Wolfpack has so far battled its way to a 6-7-1 record and is not far from a tournament berth. There are four tough games before the tournament, but only three more points are needed: two wins and a tie, which the team has the skill and the confidence to obtain. "We've pulled through rough times before," says Julia Mackinnon (II). "With a little luck and a lot of hard work we can make the tournament." These strong words are wholly representative of the team's continued success. Though they are self-proclaimed underdogs, the girls' revamped coaching staff and strong core of dedicated players have not yet led them astray. According to the new coach, Catherine Foley, "The senior class has set a new example of what is expected for Boston Latin Girls Hockey. The team had great leadership."

One situation where the team's veterans took on incredible responsibility was regarding position changes. In particular, Siobhan Elvin (I) accepted a mid-season shift from the goaltending position, which she has been playing since sixth year, to play left wing. "The switch wasn't hard to make whatsoever," Elvin says, adding, "the only tough adjustment was getting used to being on the bench during the game."

Elvin is being replaced by a tandem of younger, inexperienced students: Liz Lomuscio (II) and Michaela Clark (II).

The mid-season switch was made in order to fill the void Elvin was sure to leave behind upon graduating. Elvin offered her own assessment of the switch: "I think my switch was important and even though some people were timid to accept it at first because they may have been used to me in net, I think overall people are happy with the switch." Moving to left wing, the former goaltender has brought

we have had a great season," said Sarah Bowers (II). Brittany Miller (II) added, "We are a real dedicated team. We work hard and have great chemistry together. We'll do anything it takes to make states." There has been a rising pressure on the team to match its preseason expectations and so far the girls are right on track. "It's exciting to be a senior on the team, but it's bittersweet since it's our last season,"



WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, THE SENIORS GET GOING

a much-needed physical presence to the offense. "We needed Siobhan to play up to bring more intensity to our offense and score goals," says Samantha Prince (I). "It has definitely been successful so far." No matter what happens, the girls are, and should be, proud of what they have accomplished. "There is not one game that I can say the team didn't give it our all;

says Prince. "We love and will miss all the girls but we aren't focusing on that now, our season isn't over just yet." Even if, by some stroke of misfortune, the girls do not have a chance to prove themselves in the tournament, they have nothing to be ashamed of. The Wolfpack will have left it all out on the ice, and there is nothing better than that.

Spotlight

Jillian Galofaro



BRIDGET QUINN, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

While walking down the senior hallway during the winter, you may have seen a girl who occasionally sports a gray 80's basketball jumpsuit or the ever-popular bright purple zip-up with pants identical to Pat Hastings' (I). You may have also seen her in your class sitting at her desk constantly moving her feet, practicing her Irish step moves. This diva is the one and only Jillian Galofaro, a West Roxbury legend. I met Jill in the first grade at the Patrick Lyndon Pilot School. Although I came up with the clever nickname, "Jillian Galofarto," on my first day, we still became best friends. I traded her my cafeteria meatballs for her tuna sandwich, and the rest is history.

Shortly after Jill learned to walk, she started Irish step dancing, and when she was only three-years-old, she could have given Michael Flatley a run for his money. Jill has become a lord of the dance, not only through practice with the "ODC," but also through hosting many step battles in her basement. All the years of beating up that Irish beat have paid off; in November, Jill qualified for the World Championships of Irish Dance, which will be held in Scotland in March. Don't be alarmed if within the next month, Jill's legs turn a shade of "Snooki Orange." She does it for her competitions.

Not only does this River Dancer excel in her hard shoes, she is also an athlete. Jill illegally started playing basketball in the 3rd-4th grade league at the West Roxbury Community Center in the 2nd grade and has been breaking opponents' ankles with her deadly crossover ever since. She has been a starting point guard on the girls' varsity basketball team since the 9th grade (not counting a brief stint on JV after one of the participants in the 2007 Miss America Pageant advised her to practice passing the buck elsewhere).

She is not a one-sport athlete, either. In the 8th and 9th grade, Jill graced the cross country and Spring track teams with her presence. She retired after a short two-year career because she managed to break world records in every event.

Over the past 12 years, I have had the pleasure of knowing Jill both on and off the basketball court, and it was an honor to be one of her co-captains this year. She has a positive attitude and always knows the right things to say to her teammates after a tough game. Not only does she have extraordinary basketball skills, deadly dance moves and goddess looks (sorry boys, she's taken), but she also has the brains to match. So far, she has been accepted to multiple prestigious colleges, such as Boston College and Salve Regina University and plans to study nursing in the fall. I know that wherever she goes next year, she will be successful and will definitely still be obsessed with the color red.

Spotlight
Michelle Ventura



JACKIE McDONAGH, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whether you know that tan Portuguese chick on the second floor as the girl who made the Chocolate Monkey last year, the basketball and softball superstar or the girl who doesn't stop dancing after the music stops, you have probably heard of Michelle "Ace" Ventura. My first memory of Michelle is from the beginning of my B-sie year, when we were working out in the weight room in preparation for basketball. She seemed really outgoing and funny, so when she tripped over a weight and fell to the ground, I laughed. She then dedicated the song that was playing to me: "Clumsy" by Fergie. I'm still not sure if she meant to compliment me with the song or to just make me feel incredibly awkward, but I laughed with her anyways. I have grown to love her silly antics and contagious laugh over the past few years so much that I consider her my best friend.

Ace Ventura the Pet Detective is old news. Ace Ventura the Sports Superstar is where the party is at. Michelle has been on the Boston Latin School Girls' Varsity Softball and Basketball teams since her freshman year. Her athletic ability is often overlooked when she is seen in the halls struggling to get up the stairs or tripping over nothing and bringing down the person next to her. After that description, I'm sure you wouldn't picture her as a two-time Dual County League All-Star for softball or a captain of both the girls' basketball and softball teams, but those are just a few of Michelle's many accomplishments. Michelle is incredibly smart and insightful and will make some amazing discovery completely by accident. This will be on account of her superior intellect mixed with her lack of common sense.

Her fabulous dancing ability definitely contributes to her athletic performances. On the basketball court, her opponents fall victim to her stellar ball-handling skills and usually end up with broken ankles. After breaking a few sets of ankles and busting out with some fresh dance steps, Michelle performs her signature move: driving to the hoop and spinning in the air to drain the shot backwards. However, when Michelle is on the softball field, her dance moves provide a perfect distraction for when she needs to steal a base. When she gets in a pickle, she finds it best to drop it low (or as she says, "drop low"), scream as loud as possible and then do a series of jerking motions accompanied by a few back flips before she ends up stealing home plate with ease.

Many have asked me how my friendship with Michelle will change when she goes to college. I'm not worried because I won't ever be able to break the bond my entire family has made with Michelle. She has changed me into the person I want to be for the rest of my life: someone who wants the best for those closest to her. She supports me in what I do, and these effects on a person can never be forgotten. Thanks for everything, Ace! I'll miss you next year.

SPORTS Change Brings Results

ALEX WILLIAMS, I
STAFF WRITER

There are five seconds left on the clock and you are debating whether or not to take the shot. The stomping and cheering of the crowd echo in your ear, and then the buzzer goes off. Have you made the shot? This situation is common for the Girls' Basketball team at Boston Latin School. Led by captains Michelle Ventura (I), Jillian Galofaro (I), Bridget Quinn (I), and Molly Ryan (I), the team has experienced great success and improvement over the 2009-2010 season.

The team has gone through many changes this year. In addition to losing valued alumni teammates such as Kay Smith ('09) and Katie Walsh ('09), the team has also had a change in administration. If it were not bad enough, Captain Ventura missed four games before the Christmas vacation due to a sprained ankle. "It was tough as a fellow guard to not have her with me," said Galofaro. "She is a great leader on the court with contagious effort and positivity." Despite these setbacks, the team has shown that they are a family, and together, they are able to overcome any obstacle set before them.

The team is comprised mostly of upperclassmen: four seniors, five juniors, and three sophomores. With new addition Courtney Hoban (III), and returning players Laura Sullivan (III) and Allison Florentino (II) moving up to the varsity

level, the team has seen great improvement during their games. The girls proved this by starting the season with a 2-0 record. According to Quinn (I), "In years past, we probably had two wins for the entire season, so it was awesome to have two wins after only two games."

What was the cause for this great success? The girls' basketball program is now organized by coaches Kevin Bernazani and Kerri Orellana. Under the new regime, more girls have been given playing time, which has improved their performance on the court. One example of this new program's success is Quinn, who was able to better demonstrate her athletic ability on the court by starting during the first varsity game of the season.

With their 4-8 record, the team is working hard to make it to playoffs. The players state that positive encouragement from their coaches makes a huge difference in their performance. Instead of the playoffs being a long-shot dream, it is now an attainable goal for the near future.

In the last few weeks of every season, seniors are reluctant to put their "LATIN" printed jerseys aside and call it the end. Being on the team has been a part of these girls' lives for a majority of their high school careers. When asked about her final season, Ventura stated, "It's going to be sad when we have to go, but it was so great being able to experience the program under new coaching. This season was so much fun and I can only imagine how much the team will



WITNESSING THE REBIRTH OF GIRLS' BASKETBALL

be able to grow in the future. With the dominating juniors turning into seniors next year, I know they are going to have an amazing season." With promising players, the seniors depart knowing that the team has a bright future ahead.

BLS Crowd Control

SANCHAY JAIN, I
SPORTS EDITOR

A couple of weeks ago, I went to a Boys' Basketball game with the Wolf-pack facing Acton-Boxborough. At the game, the head of the Athletics Department, Mr. John McDonough, prohibited a display of bodypaint by a few of the seniors in attendance and also warned the fans against booing. One senior was kicked out for booing; however, he arrived to the game after the warning had been issued and was therefore oblivious to it. The crowd was kept under close surveillance for the rest of the game by Mr. McDonough and a Boston Public School police officer. Leaving the game, I was confused. How does it make any sense to curtail student enthusiasm at a sporting event by prohibiting body paint and booing?

Mr. McDonough was willing to discuss the matter with me. "When you are out there booing," he says, "it's negative. It's not good sportsmanship. When you go to a game, you should be positive." By cheering for the home team, according to McDonough, "you are already rooting against the other team." As it stands, McDonough pointed out a list of Dual County League sportsmanship protocols that is on the wall in the upper gym. On this list, rules against booing are explicitly stated.

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletics Association issues out awards to high schools that display positive sportsmanship, and Boston Latin School has

been a perennial winner of these awards. The banners are on display in the gym, standing alongside banners announcing DCL Championships in Football and Girls' Volleyball. McDonough is very proud of our school's successes in this aspect of high school sports. "In our own house and in every other high school, sportsmanship is a first."

Meanwhile, McDonough addressed the issue of body paint in a simple sentence: "When it becomes acceptable for the girls to take off their shirts and paint their bodies, then the boys can do it too." He went on to say that by doing things like body paint, the student is not just rooting for his school team, but he is instead looking to draw attention to himself. "The attention should be focused on the kids actually on the court," says McDonough. He attributes the desire to use body paint as inspired by the actions of fans at

It probably is a display of bad sportsmanship. But is anyone being adversely impacted by that? At the high school level, a road team should be expecting some amount of impersonal hostility—they are the opposing team after all. Limits should be placed on heckling, to avoid events like the 2004 brawl at the Palace of Auburn Hills in Detroit. A crowd needs to be kept under control, especially when the crowd is made up mainly of adolescents. However, booing is not a sign of rowdiness, and as long as it is excessive and not directed towards a particular individual, there is no malice in booing.

Mr. McDonough also argued that booing loudly during a competition or theater performance would be frowned upon and deemed rude. However it is preposterous to compare a sporting event to either of those things. Decorum for musical competitions calls for the audience to

wait until a performer has finished before applauding. Cheering as someone plays their violin is considered as rude as booing, despite being intended as encouragement. In a basketball game, the crowd is chanting from the opening tip until the final whistle. Emotion and adrenaline are naturally going to run high in an atmosphere of continuous excitement, which will lead to booing. Therefore, it is irrational to compare a sporting event to a musical competition or a theater performance.

While I understand the rationale behind the rules against booing and the

prohibition of body paint, and perhaps even accept the latter, the rules prohibit expression of school pride. If people have to spend five dollars to watch these games, they should be allowed to get excited without fearing getting kicked out.



A REAL DISPLAY OF BAD SPORTSMANSHIP

professional sporting events. However, the difference in his mind is money. "At the professional level, they're making too much money, and so they won't regulate. We don't have that problem."

Booing is certainly never positive.

SPORTS

Do NBA Players Deserve the Bad Reputation?



YES

By **DEVIN KIRBY, II**
STAFF WRITER

First off, let me say this: no one likes the National Basketball Association like this guy. But does the NBA community deserve the negative stereotype it often gets: flashy, arrogant, and not even really good at basketball? Absolutely.

Of course, these stereotypes do not exist league-wide. There are plenty of people willing to do the little things that go unnoticed. If anyone was watching, Shane Battier of the Houston Rockets presented an absolute clinic on how to play defense against Kobe Bryant during the 2009 Playoffs. Unfortunately, most of the bandwagon basketball fans that just tune in for the playoffs could not tell because, oh look, it's Kobe!

Not everybody cares enough about basketball to know every player in the game. In fact, the large majority of people do not know anyone else besides the "premier superstars" of the league, and these are the people that demonstrate the stereotypes that are then attributed to the rest of the players. LeBron James might not be lazy—in fact I'd say he's anything besides. But tell me what I'm supposed to take away, besides just sheer arrogance, from his storming off the court after losing to Orlando in Game 7 of last year's Conference Playoffs without giving a ceremonial handshake because he "is always a winner"? Or Dwayne Wade, the leader of the Miami Heat, not hustling back on a fast break because he's having an off game? Again, arrogance. And who personifies arrogance more than Kobe? Don't kid yourself. That guy's a jerk. Yeah, he's unbelievable, but that doesn't excuse you from being a bad person (can you say rape allegations?).

As far as flash goes, it's simply a testament to the evolution of the NBA from real competitive sport to a more entertainment-based play. However, this doesn't change the fact that NBA players are flashier than ever. Dwight Howard has gotten famous off dunking and blocking and being a posterchild. Talent-wise, he's really not that good. Brook Lopez of the New Jersey Nets is a much more skilled player than Dwight, and puts up about the same numbers. But who cares? Brook isn't running around pretending to be a Marvel superhero at the All-Star Game. Carmelo Anthony is the stereotypical trash-talking, hard-nosed hoodrat you picture playing at your local court. I love the passion, but maybe Melo should improve his image by endorsing something other than Gatorade and shoes, especially when his teammates, Chauncey Billups and Chris Anderson, are out promoting aid for poor people and drug addicts. Steve Nash is just as good a passer as Chris Paul is—maybe even better—but if it's not ridiculous behind-the-back alley-oops then why even bother?

People see these superstars and assume that the rest of the league is the same. And can you blame them? Second-tier stars offer similar shenanigans. Jason Kidd beats his wife, Gilbert Arenas and Delonte West carry around gats, Dirk Nowitzki's girlfriend is a felon, and Josh Howard says bad things about America, but then makes up for it by saying, "It's cool guys, I was totally high on weed and didn't mean any of it." The All-Star Game, which used to be a bloodthirsty battle for conference supremacy, has turned into a circus with LeBron getting free dunks and Shaq breakdancing for better ratings.

It's really hard to look at these players and think, "Wow, you're an articulate, socially-conscious and modest hero of national sports." Not to say there aren't scores of these types of players in the league. Just look at the massive initiative to help Haiti by Philadelphia 76er Samuel Dalembert and ex-Heat star Alonzo Mourning. But neither of them are incredibly famous, so at the end of the day, who cares?



NO

By **VIMIN TO, I**
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

I have always been a fan of Gilbert Arenas. I consider him one of the best players in the National Basketball Association (NBA). He flat out knows how to play the game. He gets assists, he gets steals and he definitely knows how to shoot. He is easily just as good, if not better, than Allen Iverson, Chauncey Billups and Brandon Roy.

It is this talent that makes it so painful to watch Arenas flush his career away. Granted, they were unloaded, but it goes without saying that he should have never brought firearms into the locker room. No matter how much teammate Javaris Crittenton owed him, there is no excuse for bringing guns to the workplace.

The NBA has come under much scrutiny because of this situation. Many believe that the controversy has not only defamed Arenas, but the league itself. However, I believe that the problem is being blown way out of proportion. Yes, I know Arenas was wrong, but is it fair to label him a bad guy just because of this one incident? I know this does not excuse his actions, but did you know just how charitable this man is? Arenas donated \$100 for every point he scored in each home game during the 2006-07 season to local D.C. area schools. He also mentors a D.C. boy who lost his family in a fire when he was ten years old. Arenas takes him shopping, bowling, got him a job as a ball boy for the Wizards and acts as a brotherly figure to him.

My point is, even though Arenas committed a terrible mistake, he is not a bad person. The league, as a whole, does not deserve to suffer because of this one man's lapse in judgment. The NBA is not about gambling, violence or gun-play. It is a league founded on honor, respect and charity.

Believe it or not, the NBA has the most charitable athletes in all of North America. The greatest example of the league's generosity is its NBA Cares program. NBA Cares is the league's global outreach initiative that addresses important social issues such as education, youth and family development, and health and wellness. The NBA, its teams and its players support a wide range of programs that strive to positively impact children and families worldwide.

As part of the league's mission to demonstrate leadership and social responsibility, NBA Cares reaches communities through philanthropy and hands-on service. Since October 2005 when NBA Cares was launched, the league, the players and the teams have raised more than \$115 million for charity, provided more than one million hours of hands-on service and built more than 440 places where kids and families can live, learn and play in communities around the world.

Outside of NBA Cares, there are numerous individual players who have dedicated both their time and money to give back to the community. Miami Heat guard Dwayne Wade is a prime example of this. Wade has been known for visiting sick children in the hospital; he does this privately so that he does not put himself in the media spotlight. Recently, Wade co-founded the Haitian Earthquake Relief Fund with former teammate Alonzo Mourning. The fund seeks to raise money to help the victims of the 2010 Haiti earthquake. Because of Wade and Mourning's extraordinary efforts, the fund has raised over \$800,000 for Haitians.

Does the NBA really sound like a league full of criminals, gunmen and thugs? From time to time, there will be knuckleheads who will cause trouble. But these knuckleheads are, by far, a small minority. How can you compare a couple of incidents to the millions of hours of charity the players have donated?



Things Heat Up on the Ice

STEVEN PRINCIPI, I
STAFF WRITER

It has been a strange season so far in the National Hockey League. Teams that were believed to be bottom feeders are prevailing, while those that were predicted to dominate are free falling. Formerly unknown players are quickly becoming superstars and leading their teams up the ranks, while some former stars cannot seem to get it figured out. The youth movement in the league is continuing with yet another impressive class of rookies. But, as always, some things have gone as expected: the Ovechkin's and Crosby's continue to prove that they are head and shoulders above everyone else; the San Jose Sharks are in the midst of yet another impressive regular season run that seems almost destined to end in a post season failure; Pavel Datsyuk of the Detroit Red Wings continues to embarrass goalies in shootouts. Overall, it has been one of the most entertaining and interesting seasons in recent memory, and the playoff stretch is yet to begin.

The Colorado Avalanche, Buffalo Sabres, Phoenix Coyotes and Los Angeles Kings were all going to have down seasons while the Red Wings, Calgary Flames and our hometown Bruins were on the rise. So naturally, the first four teams I mentioned are in the playoffs, while the last three, with the exception

of the Red Wings, are on the outside looking in. The Red Wings, a team laden with talent, are only a few points ahead of other teams looking at the last playoff spot. The reasons? The Avalanche, Sabres, Coyotes and Kings all have a plethora of young talent, while the Red Wings and Flames have skilled veterans who are quickly aging. The Bruins, however, have a different problem. Picked by many to make a deep playoff run, the team traded away the best pure scorer, Phil Kessel, and hoped that a team of overachievers could get it done. It has not so far, and the team may end up regretting the decision to ship Kessel out of Boston before the season ends.

One of the most enjoyable parts of this season has been the emergence of new stars, even though it has come with the decline of others. Players such as Steven Stamkos (Tampa Bay Lightning), Alexander Semin (Washington Capitals), Shane Doan (Coyotes) and pretty much everyone on the Chicago Blackhawks have made names for themselves as rising players.

Meanwhile, the careers of stars

such as Ryan Getzlaf (Anaheim Ducks) and even the great Henrik Zetterberg (Red Wings) seem to be in limbo, as all three have struggled this season. The rookie class continues to improve, as a huge number of first-year players have made impacts for their teams.

Among these players are Matt Duchene (Avalanche), John Tavares (Islanders), Niclas Bergfors (Devils), James van Riemsdyk and Claude Giroux (Flyers).

The rookie class is, yet again, a sign of great things to come in the NHL, as a number of impact players have burst onto the scene very early in just their first season.

Other news from the league is much less surprising however, as much of what has happened has gone according to prediction. The top teams in the Western Conference are the Black Hawks and the San Jose Sharks, the two teams with the most talent and the most depth, while the East is lead by sniper Alex Ovechkin and the Capitals with Martin Brodeur and the Devils close behind. Overall, it has been an incredible season, full of high intensity and drama on the ice, and the usual classy behavior off of it. The playoff race promises to be an intense one that I cannot wait to see.

P.S. Go to YouTube and type in Datsyuk, shootout, Niemi. You will not be disappointed.



















GOALTENDER'S WORST NIGHTMARE

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NFL Predictions: Colts or Saints?

By the time you get a chance to read this, the Super Bowl will have already taken place. However, that did not stop the *Argo* staff from coming up with their predictions prior to the big game:

Mr. Flynn (Assistant Head Master and Faculty Advisor): Colts over Saints		Vimin To (Assistant Sports Editor): Saints over Colts		William Poff-Webster (Editor-in-Chief): Colts over Saints		Uyen Le (Copy Editor): Colts over Saints		Beverly Nguyen (Assistant News Editor): Saints over Colts	
Sanchay Jain (Sports Editor): Saints over Colts		Eli Hoffman (Sports Staff Writer): Colts over Saints		Andy Vo (Assistant Editor-in-Chief): Saints over Colts		Roselle Mangilog (Assistant Copy Editor): Colts over Saints		Faith Zeng (Layout Editor): Colts over Saints	
Ricardo Sanchez (Assistant Sports Editor): Saints over Colts		Brian Sitcawich (Sports Staff Writer): Colts over Saints		Jenn Tran (Copy Editor): Saints over Colts		Beata Coloyan (Forum Editor): Colts over Saints		Dominick Zheng (Assistant Layout Editor): Colts over Saints	
						David Ma (News Editor): Saints over Colts			

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